ZELAVTO.

THE FOVN-taine of *Fame*.

Erected in an Orcharde
of Amorous Aduentures.

Containing
A Delicate *Disputation*, gallantly discourſed betweene two noble *Gentlemen of* Italye.

Giuen for a freendly entertainment *to* Euphues, *at his late arriuall* into England.

By A. M. *Seruaunt to the Right Honourable the Earle of Oxenford.*

Honos alit Artes.

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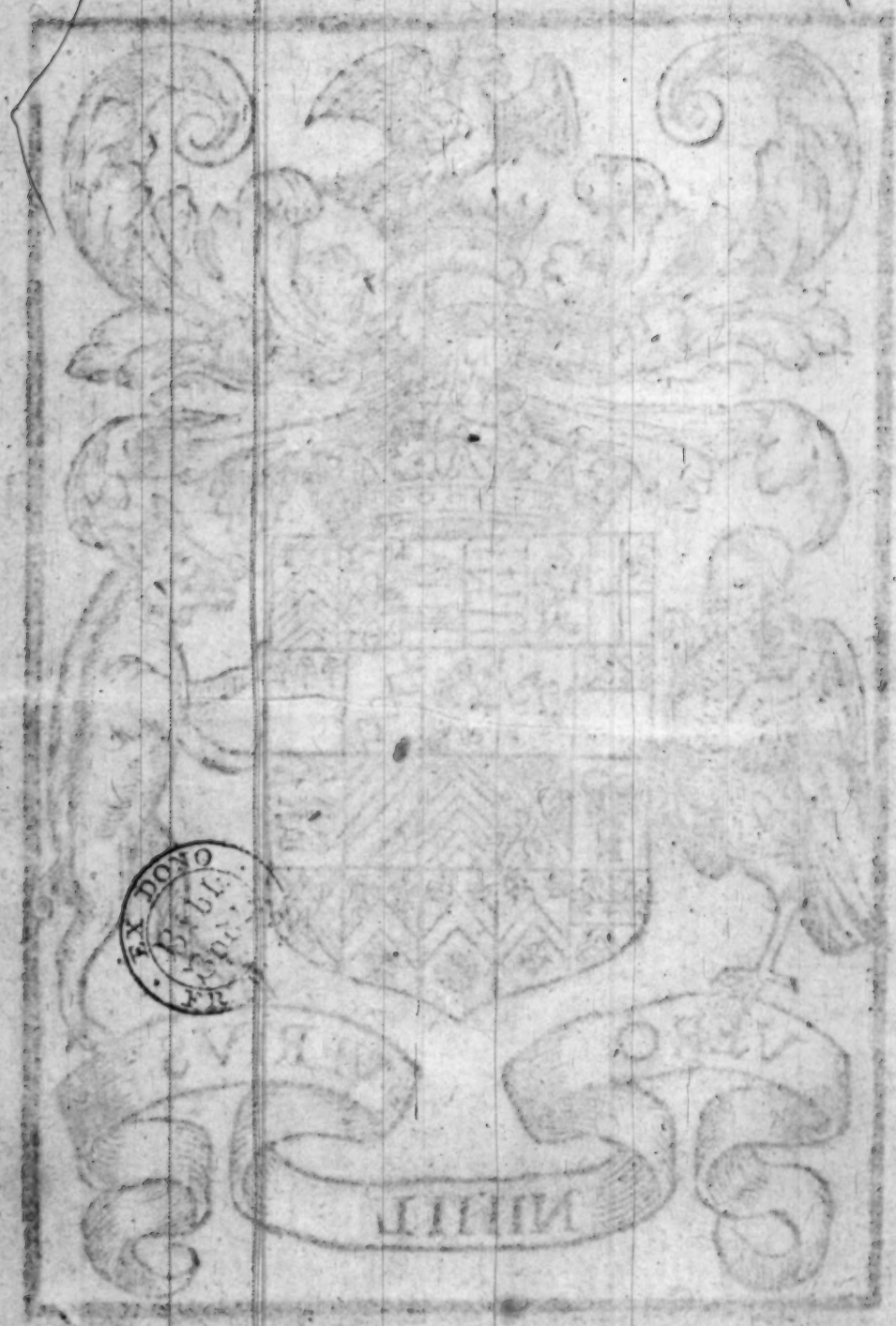
NIHIL


NIHIL

To the Right Honorable, his ſinguler good Lord and Maiſter, Edward de Vere, *Earle of Oxenford*, Viſcount Bulbeck, Lord Sandford, and of Badeleſmere, and Lord high Chamberlaine *of England*, Antony Munday, *wiſheth all happines in this Honorable eſtate, and after death eternall life.*

(∴)

After that the *Engliſhe Prince* (*Right Honorable and my verie good Lord*) *had taken view of the ſeemelye Portrature of* Gridonia, *her tender Infant lying by her, and leading two Lions in her hand: he preſently left the Court, and*

tooke himſelfe to trauayle . When the princely Primaleõ, *heard pronoũced before his famous father the Emperour of* Conſtantinople, *the ſorrowfull Letters ſent by the* Lady *of the* Lake , *how his beſt beloued brother was loſte in the vnfortunate Foreſt of* England : *he abandoned all his Courtly delights , and neuer ceaſſed wandring , till he became priſoner in the ſame place . So my ſimple ſelfe (Right Honourable) hauing ſufficiently ſeene the rare vertues of your noble minde , the heroycall quallities of your prudent perſon : thought , though abilitie were inferiour to gratifie with ſome gift , yet good will was ample to beſtowe with the beſt . When all the braue* Gallants *and woorthy* Gentlemen *in* Roome, *preſented vnto the* Emperour Iewels *and gifts of great value and eſtimation*

mation: a poore Cittizen *amongſt thē all brought a handfull of* Flowers, *and offered them to the* Emperour, *the which he receiued gratiouſly and with great affection, and gaue him a great reward. Why (quoth one of the* Gentlemen) *how durſt thou preſume to giue ſo poore a preſent, to ſo puiſſant a perſon? Why (quoth the* Citizen) *how durſt they be ſo bolde to giue ſuch great gifts? Quoth the* Gentleman, *they are of great credit, and beſide, their gifts woorthy the receiuing. And I am poore (quoth the* Cittizen) *and therefore I giue ſuch a meane gift, yet hath it beene gratefully accepted: And although they diſcend of ſuch noble Linages: yet doo they owe dutifull alleageaunce vnto the* Emperour, *and as poore as I am, I beare him as true a heart as the beſt: Euen ſo my poore gift hath beene*

as faithfully deliuered: as the richest Iewell that was by them presented.

And loe Right Honourable, among such expert heads, such pregnaunt inuentions, and such commendable writers, as preferre to your seemely selfe, woorkes woorthy of eternall memory: A simple Soule, (more imboldened on your clemencie, then any action whatsoeuer he is able to make manifest) presumeth to present you with such vnpulliſhed practises: as his simple skill is able to comprehend. Yet thus much I am to assure your Honour, that among all them which owe you dutifull seruice, and among all the braue Bookes which haue beene bestowed: these my little labours containe so much faithfull zeale to your welfare, as others whatsoeuer, I speake without any exception. But least that your Honour should

deeme

deeme I forge my tale on flatterie, and that I vtter with my mouth, my hart thinketh not: I wish for the tryall of my trustinesse, what reasonable affayres your Honour can best deuise, so shall your minde be deliuered from doubt: and my selfe rid of any such reproche. But as the puissantest Prince is not voyde of enemies, the gallantest Champion free from foes, and the moste honest liuer without some backbiters: euen so the braueſt Bookes hath many malicious iudgements, and the wiſeſt writers not without raſhe reports. If then (Right Honourable) the moſte famous are foūd fault withall, the cuningeſt controlled, & the prompteſt wits reproched by ſpitefull ſpeeches: how dare ſo rude a writer as I, ſeeme to ſet foorth ſo meane a matter, ſo weake a woorke, and ſo ſkilleſſe a

stile? When the learned are deluded: I must needes be mocked, and when the skilfulleſt are ſcorned: I muſt needes be derided: But yet I remember, the wiſe will not reprehend raſhly, the learned condemne ſo lightly, nor the courteous miſconſter the good intent of the writer: But onely ſutch as Æſops *Dog, that brags but dares not bite, hid in a hole and dare not ſhewe their heads, againſt all ſuch, the countenaunce of your Honour is ſufficient to contend, which makes me not feare the force of their enuie. The Chirurgion more douteth the hidden Fiſtule: then the wide wound, the woorthieſt warriour more feareth the ſecret aſſault: thē the boldeſt battaile, A little hooke taketh a great Fiſh, a little winde falleth downe big fruit, a ſmal ſpark kindleth to a great fire, a little ſtone may make a tall mā ſtū-*

ble,

ble, & a ſmall wound kill a puiſſant perſon: Euen ſo the hidden enemy may ſooner harme a mã: then whẽ he trieth his quarrell face to face, and the leaſt report of a ſlaũdrous toũg (beeing lightly beleeued) may diſcredit him to his vtter vndooing. But for my part I feare not, let thẽ prate at their pleaſure, & talke till their toũgs ake, your Honour to pleaſe, is the cheefe of my choiſe, your good will to gaine is my wiſhed reward: which ſhalbe more welcome then Creſſus *aboundaunce, and more hartily accepted then any worldly wealth. The laſt part of this woorke remaineth vnfiniſhed, the which for breuity of time, and ſpeedines in the Imprinting: I was conſtrained to permit till more limitted leyſure. Deſiring your Honour to accept this in meane time, as a ſignẽ and token of my dutifull goodwill.*

The Epistle Dedicatorie.

Not long it will be before the reſt be finiſhed and the renowned Palmerin *of England with all ſpeede ſhall be ſent you. Thus praying for your proſperitie, and the increaſe of your Honourable dignitie : I commend your woorthye ſtate to the heauenly eternitie.*

Your Honours moſte dutifull ſeruaunt at all aſſayes.

Antony Munday.

¶ To the well disposed Reader.

I May be deemed (courteous Reader) more wanton then wise, and more curious then circumspect: in naming my booke by such a vaine glorious title, for some will suppose heere are rare exploytes of martial mindes to be seen: which whē they haue prooued, they finde it to faint. Othersome will desire for Venus daintie dalliances: but Iuno dealeth so iustly in this cause, that their also they misse their marke. Then how (will some say) can Fame be so furnished: and bothe of these absent? the matter (say I) shall make manifest what I haue attempted: and then if I be founde faultie, I will stand to your gentle iudgementes. That man is very wise that neuer offendeth in folly, that man is very valiant that neuer meetes with his match, and that man is very circumspect that neuer talketh awry, the righteous man offendeth seuē times a day: then needes must the negligent be found very faulty. It is a good horse that neuer stumbleth, and he a seuere seruaūt that neuer displeaseth his maister, then beare with my rudenesse if I chaunce to offend you: my good will did labour in hope for to please you.

Againe, some will be inquisitiue, why I am so wil-

ling to welcome Euphues into England: he beeyng so excellent: and my selfe so simple: If Euphues so wisely dooth wish you beware, and to preuent the perilles that heedelesse heades may haue, wishing youth likewise to frame their fancies so fit, that no crooked chaunces doo happen to harme them: Then like that Lilly whose sent it so sweete, and fauour his freend who wisheth your welfare. And although my wit be so weake: that I cannot welcome as I would, and my skyll to simple to gratifye so gentle a gueast: I trust my good will shall plead me a pardon, & my honest intent be nothing misliked. Thus hoping to haue your courteons consentes, which is the reward I cheefest require, I wishe my woorkes may prooue as profitable to you in the reading: as they were delightfull to me in the writing.

Your freend to commaund
A. Munday.

A delicate Disputation gallantlye discourſed betweene two noble Gentlemen of Italy.

The Argument.

NOt longe ſince ouer the famous and ſtupendious Citie of Venice, gouerned Gonzalo Guicciardo, elected Duke by the moſt worthye Orlando Fiorentino. This aforeſayde Gonzalo, (renowmed for his princely gouerment, obayed for his finguler wiſdom, prayſed for his pollitique ſuppreſſing of prowde vſurpinge enimies, and honored for his humilytie to his ſubiects ingenerall) was not onely accounted as a ſecond Mutio among his freends and familyars, but euen amonge his very enemies was alſo eſteemed as a prince worthy of eternall memory. And nature the more to agraua te his ioyes in his hoary haires: gaue hym a Sonne called Zelauto, whoſe finguler humanitie, whoſe puiſance in feates of armes, whoſe dexteritie in witte, and whoſe comelye ſhape in perſonage, cauſed hym through all Venice to bee greatly accounted of.

This gallant youth Zelauto (more deſirous to aduaunce his fame by traueilyng ſtraunge countries: then to leade his lyngring life ſtyll in the court of his famous

father)one day by chaunce tooke courage to open the hidden thoughts which longe incombred his carefull breaſt,and hauing eſpied his father at ſuch conuenient leaſure,as ſerued beſt for his auayle, yeelding his obeyſaunce as dutie beſeemed,entred into this diſcourſe.

If(Right woorthy and renowmed Father)nature had adorned me with ſuch rare and excellent quallities , as might procure an hartes eaſe and ioy vnto your princely eſtate: then would dutie cauſe me to keepe my minde in ſilence, and feare (of diſpleaſing your aged hart) byd me reſtrayne my vowed attempt. But ſith I am deſtitute of that which my hart deſireth , & willing to gaine the ſame by painefull induſtry : I hope I ſhall purchaſe no ill will of your perſon , nor diſpleaſe the mindes of your ſubiectes in generall. Firſt weigh and conſider by your gratious aduiſement,that a youthfull minde more deſireth the fragrant fieldes : then the hidden houſe,Cuſtome confeſſeth,yea,and lawe of Nature alloweth,that it is more permanent to a princely courage, to ſeeke the renowmed manſion, of the moſt illuſtrious and ſacred Ladye Fame : then to drowne his youthfull dayes in gulfs of gaping greef,in ſilēt ſorrows,in vaine thoughts and cogitations , and alſo in trifling and idle exerciſes, which maketh him more prone vnto vice then vertue, more apt vnto lewdnes : then contented liuing,yea,maketh him ſo friuilous and fantaſticall, that nothing but libidinous thoughtes, beaſtly behauiour, is his whole exerciſe. For then euery blaſing beame,and euery ſugred countenaunce of a woman allureth him, that floting on the Seas of fooliſh fanſie,and hauing abid one luſty gale of winde,wherewith the Barke of his body, is beaten againſt the Rockes of his Ladyes lookes, then the poore

patient

patient falleth into ſo extreme an extaſie, that one worde will kill him, and an other reuiue him. Thus is he incloſed amid theſe ſubtill ſnares, while in the warlike feeld he might enioy his libertie, and their win fame which ſhould laſt eternally. Theſe and ſuch like crabbed conceites (deere Father) vrgeth me to craue your leaue and licence, that I may a while viſite ſtraunge Countries, In which time, I doubt not but to atchieue ſuch exploytes, that at my returne it will be treble ioy to your Princely eares to heare them recounted.

Sonne Zelauto (aunſwered the Duke) this your diſcourſe is both commendable, and allowable, for I lyke well of your intent, and with all my hart giue conſent that for a limitted time you ſhal ſeeke aduentures, which time ſhall amount vnto .vi. yeares, and on my bleſsing I charge thee, not to breake that appointed time. In the meane while, if God call me (as my life is vncertaine) I frankly & freely giue thee all is myne. Wherfore looke well to thy ſelfe, that good report may be heard of thee, which vnto me will be great contentation. But nowe as touching what ayde and aſsiſtance thou wilt haue with thee: ſpeake, and it ſhall be graunted. Good Father (anſwered Zelauto) none but onely one to beare me company, which I know will be ſufficient. Well (quoth the Duke) receiue heere my bleſsing, this portion of money, and this knight to beare thee company. And I pray God in all thy wayes to guide and protect thee, and ſo you may depart when you pleaſe.

Zelauto accompanied with his knight, departed from the Court of his famous Father, and tooke ſhipping to goe vnto Naples, from thence, he trauailed vnto Valentia in Spayne, and chauncing into the company of certayne

tayne Englisſh Merchauntes, who in the Latine tongue told him the happy eſtate of England, & how a worthy Princes gouerned their common weale, and all ſuche thinges as could not be more prayſed then they deſerued. The which Zelauto hearing, craued of them that he might ſayle with them into England, and he woulde liberally reward them. They beeyng contented, and hauing laden their Shippes with ſuch neceſſaryes as they beſt deſyred: within fewe dayes hoyſed ſayles, and away they went.

This young youth Zelauto beeyng come into England, and ſeene the rare and vertuous vſage of the illuſtrious and thriſe renowmed Princes, with the great honour and fauour which he obtayned among her woorthy Lordes: purpoſed to ſtay ſtill there. But yet remembring, that although he ſawe one place: many others were as yet vnſeene, after a yeere expyred, he tooke ſhipping into Perſia, and ſo departed. In proceſſe of time he had viſited many ſtraunge Countryes, ſuſtayned many and wonderfull iniuryes among the Turkes, which after ſhall be declared. And returning homeward, happened on the borders of Sicile, where Fortune was fauourable vnto him: that vnawares he happened on the cane of a valiaunt Knight, who was a Chriſtian, and hauing committed an hainous offence: fled out of his owne Countrie, and inhabited there in a ſilent Cell, among the woods. This Knight beyng named Aſtræpho, and hearing the trampling of one about his denne: tooke his weapons, and came foorth. He beeing greatly abaſhed at the ſight of Zelauto, for that in tenne yeeres ſpace he neither ſawe man nor woman: but had lyued there a ſauage lyfe: forgetting all

poyntes

poyntes of humanitie ſayd. VVhat varlet, art thou come to ſeeke my death? thou art welcome, and therewith all ſtrooke at Zelauto, who alas through tedioufneſſe of trauell, and long beeyng without any ſuſtenaunce: was conſtrayned to yeeld, and falling on his knees ſubmitted himſelfe to his mercye, which Aſtræpho ſeeing, ſayd as hereafter followeth.

(: . :)

Astræpho, *hauing conquered*
Zelauto, sayth.

WHat so sodayne and straunge Metamorphesis is this? Art thou a Knight, that professest thy selfe a Souldier vnder God Mars his Ensigne: and so sone conquered? What dost thou think that this thy submission, shall hinder me of my pretẽded purpose? Thy death it is I seeke, and more honour shall I obtayne by the slaughter of such a wretche: then to let thee lyue any longer time.

Zelauto.

Most worthy syr, if euer any iot of clemency consysted in your valiant brest: then respect I craue, the distressed case of your poor vassaill. And meruayll not though in force I am not able to resist against you, for that the great miseries which I haue susteyned in these my tedious trauayles, hath quite bereued me of my manly might.

Astrapho.

The Lyon doth easily conquer his yéelding pray.

A bad excuse (say they) is better then none at all, you pleade nowe simplicitie, through the defect of your valiancie, and by such sophisticall Sillogismes, to beguile me craftilie, no, no, poor wretch, harde was thy hap to light in his handes: who séeketh the subuertion of thy state, and to cause thée yéelde thy neck to the rigor of his manly might. Long delayes néede not, differ not with dalliance, for I am bent to thy vtter ruin.

Zelauto.

Where as Fortune is so aduerse, small hope is to be had.

Small hope hath the sely Lambe, in the rauening iawes of the greedy Wolfe, to escape with life, lyttle comfort hath the pensiue prisoner at the poynt of death, to shun so harde a lot. So I (poore soule) in the handes of a Tirant (who more regardeth blood, then bountie, more respecteth death then deliuerie, and more vaunteth of villainy, then any valiancie) what succour can I haue in this my sorrowe? what hope in this my so harde hap, to craue life it auayleth not, to desire a respit it boteth not, and to striue against the streame, were but a presuming boldnes, if I wish for death I gayne it, if I wish for life, I lose it. What shall betide thee poore distressed Zelauto? hap weale or woe, hap life or death, hap blisse or bale: I will aduenture by fayre words to intreate him, & so it may happen to stay his rigor. God syr, if euer humanitie harbored in that noble brest, or if euer pittie pronounced her puissaunce on your princely person: then respect (I pray) the distressed case of your conquered captiue. Small honour shall you haue by my death, & no Fame to vaunt on a naked man. My life can lyttle pleasure you, and my death lesse, therefore sécke not to shed his blood, who at your will & pleasure voweth bothe heart and hand at your courteous commaundement.

Zelauto at last by faire wordes, doth séeke to win fauour.

Astrapho.

Astrapho.

In deed I confesse, that small honor is his due that vaunts on so prostrate a pray, & therefore somewhat hath thy words satisfied my former desire, for in deed, a straunge and wonderfull sight it is to me, to see a man that haue seene none these ten yeeres passed, therefore pardon what is spoken, there resteth the greater amendes to be made.

After many cloudy showers, yet shineth a fayre day.

Zelauto.

Syr, more bound vnto you in duty, then euer I am able to performe: I yeeld you all thankes possible that resteth in so poore a person, & I doubt not but that God hath appoynted all at the best, for these fiue yéeres & more haue I visited straunge coũtreyes: and neuer yet did I happen on any such aduenture.

Zelauto right glad of his deliuerie, yeeldeth thankes.

Astrapho.

And haue you ben a Traueiler syr: then vnfolde I pray you what hath bene the mishaps, that the frowning Fates vnto you hath alotted, and first tell I pray you, of what soyle, what Parentage and kindred you are of, and what is your name.

Zelauto.

Syr, as necessitie hath no lawe, so neede at this present vrgeth me to speake. In this your Caue (I am sure) you are not destitute of victualls, the which I want, wherfore if it shall please you, to refresh his hunger, who is ready to faynt: I will discourse vnto you afterward my whole aduentures at large.

Astrapho.

Alas syr, if such simple fare as I haue may seeme to suffise your hunger: come neere, and we will goe to dinner, and afterward will we discourse of such matters (as perchaunce) may be profitable to bothe.

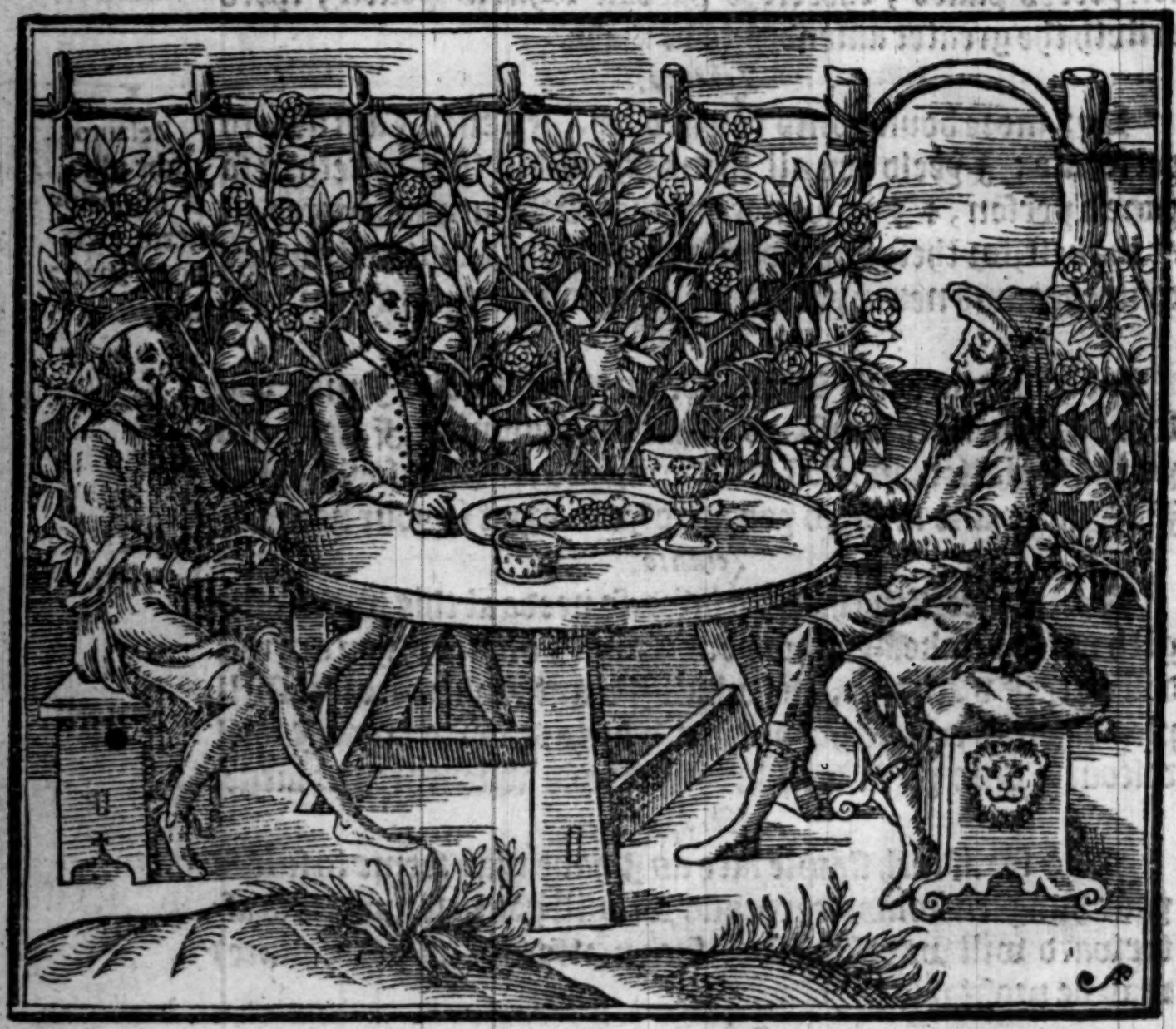
Zelauto.

With right good will syr, & a thousand thanks for your courtesie, extended vnto me in this my vnlooked for mishap. And it may so fortune, that after our conference had together: we may with our pleasaunt talke well content eche other.

Astrapho.

Well syr, approche this my homely Mansion, and I desire you to accept the goodwill of your poore hoste.

Astræpho *and* Zelauto *goeth to* dinner, and their talke after they had vvell refreshed themselues.



Astrapho.

Honest talk passeth away the time pleasantly.

NOw Syr, how lyke you of your homely entertaynment? where no better is, bad may suffise, and to a contented minde nothing is preiudiciall. You see howe poore folkes are content with pottage, Ritch men may goe to dynner when they wyll, and poore men when they may.

Zelauto.

Zelauto.

Syr, he that wyll loke a giuen Horse in the mouth: is vnworthy of the gyft, your fare hath suffised me, and you haue vanquisht him, who would haue murdred mée. What dayntie delycates is to be loked for in desert places? it sufficeth the Courts of Princes to haue their delycate fare, and to pore Trauellers, the homeliest dyshe is welcome, they loke for no after seruice, & in stéde of sauce, they vse their hungrie appetite, we syt not to haue our Table taken vp, we chop at none, and chew it sone. They in their superfluitie, we in our want. They in their prodigalitie, we spare for an after extremitie. Who more couetous then they, that haue all at their pleasure? and who more frendly then they, that haue a lyttle, and impart thereof to their frendes. They spend, we spare, they vse excesse, and we hardnesse. And therefore sayth Tullie:

A frendlie gratulatiō for curtesie receyued.

Ne ob diuitias laudaris virum indignum.

We ought to haue great respect,
least that the hydden vice:
That dooth vppon the vertues tende,
dooth slylie vs intyce.

Cicero in partitionibus Orat.

The elder Cato *also vppon this sayth.*

Cato Senior.

By two thinges I encrease my wealth,
by tylling of my ground:
The other by good husbandrie,
that I therein haue found.
For why, the one aboundaunce bringes,
as much as heart can chuse:
The other dooth me wisely teach,
howe I the same should vse.

Thus syr may you sée howe sparing is cōmended: and now somwhat wyll I speake as concerning inordinate spending, and lasciuious excesse, which hath the personnes that vsed it, greatly abused.

Lucullus, for his sumptuous buyldings, and his inordinate expences, Lucullus.

expences, thought among the Romaines to be magnified, for that he thought to excell all his predecessors. But Pompey hearing thereof, and greatly desirous to see if all were as the common brute dyd blase it abroade: iorneyed vntyll he came vnto Lucullus Mansion place, where seeing that the thing it selfe excelled the common report, in derision sayde vnto Lucullus.

Pompey.

An excellent priuiledge giuen vnto Lucullus.

These gay and gorgious buyldings heere,
be set with Stories braue:
And open windowes, that the ayre,
free entraunce in may haue.
For Summer they delightfull are,
and gallant to beholde:
But when that *Hiems* dooth approche,
her blastes wyll make you colde.

Truly, in my opinion, his wordes stode with great reason, and ought also greatly to be estéemed of, for fancie is so fickle, that each trifling toy (though it be not profitable, if it be pleasaunt) is now a dayes most desired. As Lucullus, he was all in his prodigallitie, but nothing regarded in the ende the mylerie. Farther we reade, how Apollos sonne Æsculapius, for his prodigall minde, & vnsatiable desire of rytches: was cast into the bottomles Limbo, among the Fiendes, and Diuels of hell. And diuers other (which were too tedious to rehearse) which got their goods wickedly, and spend it laciuiously. And therefore I wyll say with Tullie.

Aesculapius sonne to Apollo.

Tullie.

Malè parta, malè dilabuntur.

Zelauto dooth returne to giue his frend thākes for his liberalyty.

But now Sir, returning to our contented feast passed, for my part, I am to yéelde a thousand thankes, and to shewe you the like curtesie if I come in place where abilitie shall serue me, And wish you not to thinke, but as it was lyberally and curteously bestowed: so was it gratefully and hartily accepted. And now may I well say, that he which neuer tasteth necessitie:

ſtie: knoweth not what want is. For whyles I talked on our Courtly iunckets, I neuer thought I ſhould haue bene driuen ſo neere, but now, this ſtate contenteth me farre better then my former, which was nothing but vanitie.

Néede hath no law, neceſſitie breaketh ſtone walles.

Aſtrapho.

Syr, this your pleaſaunt diſcourſe, is bothe pithy and profitable, & ſauoureth of the ſence which prooueth perfect in ỹ concluſion. But now as touching our talke before dinner, I muſt not forget your promiſe, for that you ſayd, I ſhould vnderſtād the ſum of your myſeries, your aduentures happened in trauayle, your name, Countrey, & parentage, which tolde: I ſhall declare the better ſome of my ſtraunge aduentures.

A promiſe made, may alwayes be claymed for a due debt.

Zelanto,

Zelauto.

Zelauto accordeth to his freendly request.

Indéede syr, promise is due debt we say, and according to promise, I will vnfolde that which is bothe straũge, & lamentable, wherefore giue me leaue I desire you, & you shall heare, the perillous Pylgrimage which I poore soule haue passed.

Zelauto telleth his first trauayles.

Fyrst syr, as concerning my Countrey, Parentage and name: I giue you to vnderstand, that I am sonne to the worthy Gonzalo Guiciardo, who is Duke of Venice, and by name I highte Zelauto. Long tyme had I soiourned in the Court of my noble Father, not knowing the vse and order of forreigne Countreyes, wherevnto my minde was adicted, wherfore at the last, I ventured boldly, and tolde my Father what in heart I had attempted: the which he well lyking of: gaue his consent, and so I and an other Knight (whome my Father gaue me for companion) traueyled towarde Naples, and in our trauayle: we met with certaine Outlawes, whom we call Banditie.

Gonzalo Guiciardo, Duke of Venice.

His trauelling to Naples.

Banditie, called Outlawes, dw wound Zelauto.

These cruell fellowes set vppon mée, wounded mée verie sore, slew my Companion, dispoyled of my apparell and money, leauing mée for dead. But God more mercifull then these villaines were tyrannicall, would not suffer mée to perish in their handes, but they (béeing gone) gaue mée the power to créepe on all fowre to Naples. When I was come thyther: I knew not what to dw, because I was frendlesse, moneylesse, and dispoyled out of my Garmentes. At last, hauing espyed an Osteria: I boldly entered, putting my selfe in the handes of God, to whome I referred the paying of my charges.

His hard escaping to Naples.

His bolde entraunce into an Inne.

Heere Zelauto *telleth what happened to* him in the Osteria, and what freendshippe he found vvith *Madonna Vrsula, Madonna della Casa.*

Madonna Vrsula, the Mistresse of the house.

Being come to this Osteria, I entered, and the first person that I salwe, was the Mistresse of the house, who was named *Madonna* Vrsula, a very proper, pleasaunt, kinde & courteous Gentlewoman

woman. At my comming in, you are welcome Gentleman (quoth she) Is it your will I pray you to haue lodging? I answered, yea surely, vntill such time as my wounds be healed, and my selfe better refreshed. With that quoth she to one of her maydens. *Margarita*, conduct this Gentleman to the best Chamber, make him a good fire, and carry vp with you a Boccall of wiinne and a manchet, in the meane while, wil I make ready his supper. And Gentleman (quoth she) what thing so euer it be that you want: call for, and if it be to be gotten in Naples for loue or money, you shall haue it. Heere was yet good entertainment, after so hard mishaps, my greefe and sorrowe was not so great before, for the losse of my companion, my money & apparail: but her cheerefull wordes did as much reuiue my hart. And so yeelding her great thankes I went vp into my Chamber, where against my comming, I found a very great fire, my Chaire ready set for me to sit downe with my Cushion, & my boots pulled of, warme Pantofles brought vnto me, and a cleane kertcher put on my head. So hauing sitten there about the space of halfe an houre: vp came the misteris of the house, who taking a glasse, fille it with Wine, and came vnto me saying. Sir (*Per licentia vostra*) I salute you. So causing an other glasse to be filled with wine: shee gaue it me, whom I pledged as courteously as I could. Then toke she an other Chaire, & sat downe by me, commaunding her mayden seruaunt (who attended there) to giue place, who making courtesie to me and her misteris, departed. Then began she to talke with me in this order as followeth.

Her freendly entertainment.

Magarita la donizela.

A freendly and gentle offer.

Madonna Vrsula her returne to Zelauto.

An Italian courtesie.

She commaundeth her maide to depart, and beginneth her talke.

The talke that the Misteris of the house had with Zelauto.

Madonna Vrsula her talke.

GEntleman, as I very well esteeme of your courteous and ciuill demeanour: so am I desirous to knowe of whence you are, and what misfortunes hath happened vnto you, that you are so greeuously wounded. Pardon me I pray

you, if I demaund the thing which you are not willing to vtter, and also because on so suddaine acquaintaunce, I enterprise to question with you: Gentlewoman (quoth I) the good opinion, and great liking that you haue of me, is as yet vndeserued, and as yet you haue seene no such ciuilitie in me as deserueth to be cõmended. But yet I am to yéeld you thanks for your good liking. And as touching my mishaps, and this straunge aduenture which hath happened, and if you please to attend the discourse: I will tell you all. I am of Padua, and there my parentes dwell, and béeing minded to sée the vse of other Countries: I left my Parents, béeing well stored with money, and a Gentleman also which bare me company.

Zelauto his reply.

I fayned excuse to colour the matter.

Béeing

Bæing come hære into the kingdome: among the woods we encountred with certaine Banditie, who set vpon vs, slew my companion, left me for dead, and spoyled me of all my money and apparell. So God helping me: I haue hardly got hether with my life.

Her encouragement giuen a freshe to Zelauto

Thus haue you knowen some part of my mishaps, nowe consider thereof by your good construction. Sir (quoth shée) your hap hath bæn hard, and little do your Parentes knowe of this your suddaine aduersitie. Be not discouraged therfore, hære shall you abide vntill such time as your woundes are healed, and that you haue perfectly recouered your health, and beside what money you want: you shalbe well prouided therof. Therefore let not this mishap dismay you, a frænd in necessitie: is better then a hundred in prosperitie. But are you not acquainted with any here in Naples? Yes (quoth I) I haue letters to *Signor Giouanni Martino*, frõ my Father, for the recouerie of money, as now I stand in næd thereof.

Signor Giouanni Martino, a merchaunt in Naples.

Well Sir (quoth she) pardon my boldnes I pray you, & first trie your frænd, & if he faile: you know where to spéede of mony, & of a greater matter if næde require. In the meane time, I will sæ how nære your supper is ready, & wil come againe and beare you company. How like you now Sir of the frændly entertainment that I obtayned at this Gentlewomans hand, and also of her proffered courtesie?

Madonna Vrsula her courteous promise.

Astrapho.

Certainly *Zelauto*, you are much bound vnto that Gentlewoman, for in my opinion, you might haue gone to twentie *Osteriaes* in Naples and not haue founde the like frændship. But procéede I pray you, how sped you with your frænd for your money, and how did your hostes deale with you?

Astræpho telleth his iudgement on this matter.

Zelauto.

Zelauto procédeth in his discourse.

You shall heare Sir. After she was departed out of the Chamber, there came vp two modest Damsels, and they couered the table. At last came she vp againe. Sir (quoth she) do you not thinke it long before you goe to supper? No (quoth I) in good time yet, you næde not make such hast. Well Sir (quoth she) anon hære will a Surgion come, who shall dresse your

She returneth demaunding if he will go to supper.

your woundes, and loke vnto you till you be perfectly hea-
led.

They goe to supper.

Then was our Supper brought vp very orderly, and she brought me water to washe my handes. And after I had washed I sat downe, & she also, but concerning what good cheare we had: I nede not make report. For all thinges was in as good order, and aswell to my contentation: as euer it was in my Fathers Court.

She proffereth to play with Zelauto.

After Supper (quoth she) Sir but that you are so ouercharged with trauell, and faynt with your woundes I would play a game or two with you at the Primero. But we will referre that till to morrowe at night. Then came in the Chirurgion

A Chirur-

and

and he dreſſed my woundes, and water was brought to waſh my feete, my Bed was warmed, and ſo I went and layde me downe to take my reſt.

Zelauto commeth and dreſſeth his woundes.

¶ In the morning *Zelauto* ſendeth for Signor Giouani Martino, of whom he ſhould receiue money, and how he ſped, and of his farder freendſhip that he had with Madonna Vrſula.

NOwe when I had well and ſufficiently repoſed my ſelfe all night, and in the morning finding my ſelfe more ſtrong and forceable, then before I was: I thought to haue riſen, But vp came Miſteris Vrſula agayne, and comming to my Bed ſide, ſhe ſayd. Gentleman, haue you taken quiet reſt this night or no? Yes ſurely Miſteris (quoth I) I neuer ſlept ſo ſoundly in all my life before, and credit me, I finde my ſelfe very well amended. Wherefore now I will riſe. No not yet Sir (quoth ſhe) you ſhall firſt make your Collation in bed, with ſuch things as I haue ordayned, and haue your wounds dreſſed agayne: and then ſhall you riſe. I thanke you good Miſteris Vrſula (quoth I) and ſurely it ſeemeth very ſtraunge vnto me, that on a ſtraunger you ſhould beſtowe ſuch courteſie: Sir (quoth ſhe) on the vertuous and well diſpoſed, no one can beſtowe courteſie ſufficient. As for my part, to ſuch Gentlemen, as vpon ſome occaſion are fallen into want & neceſſitie: I thinke it a great poynt of humanitie, to beſtowe on them freendly hoſpitalitie. And therefore I followe the minde of Lactantius, who ſayth, there is a kinde of hoſpitalitie, which is vſed for a priuate gayne and ſecret commoditie, and for no loue fauour nor freendſhip at all. Of which ſort I am none, I referre that to common Inholders, and thoſe tipling Tauerners. Let them entertayne for their commoditie, and I for courteſie. I remember how Cæſar doth cõmend in his Commen-

In ỳ morning Madonna Vrſula cõmeth to ſee Zelauto

They fall in talke againe.

Lactantius de vero cultu. Chap. 12.

Inholders & Tauerners for cõmoditie.

Cæsar in his Commentaries commēdeth the Germaines.

mentaries, the great fauour & frēndship that the Germaines shewed to straungers. For not only would they defend them from their enemies: but also entertaine them with meate, drinke, clothing & lodging. The Scripture also maketh mention, how Abraham, receiued into his house (as he thought) men, but he receiued God himselfe. Lot also receiued Angels in the shape of men into his house. Wherefore for his hospitalitie Lot escaped the fire of Sodom & Gomorra. Rahab, for the same likewise, with all hers was preserued from the terror of death.

Abraham Genesis.

Sodom and Gomorra.

Rahab deliuered from death for ỳ same.

S. Ambrose as touching ỳ entertainmēt of straungers.

And what saith Saint Ambrose? Who can tell if we welcome Christe or no, when we giue frendly entertainment to straungers? Therfore sir seme not to be offended I pray you, though I preach on this fashion, for both loue, dutie, faith and charity, doth bind me to welcome you hether curteously. Alas good Misteris (quoth I) I see well your great curtesie, but I knowe not how to requite the same. Sir (quoth she) what you are not able to dw: God will dw for you, and it is sufficient for me to receiue thankes at your handes, for greater is my reward in heauen. And with that she departed to fetch me my breakefast. Now syr, tell me I pray you, if the memory of this rare and vertuous woman is not worthy to be rehearsed?

Zelauto answereth her learned discourse.

Astræpho.

Astræpho vnfoldeth his iudgement a-gayne.

Now credit me Zelauto, she surpasseth all that euer I heard of, both for promptnes of wit, vertue of the minde, and excellencie in qualities. But I pray you could she repeat these Authors whereof you haue shewen, so readily?

Zelauto.

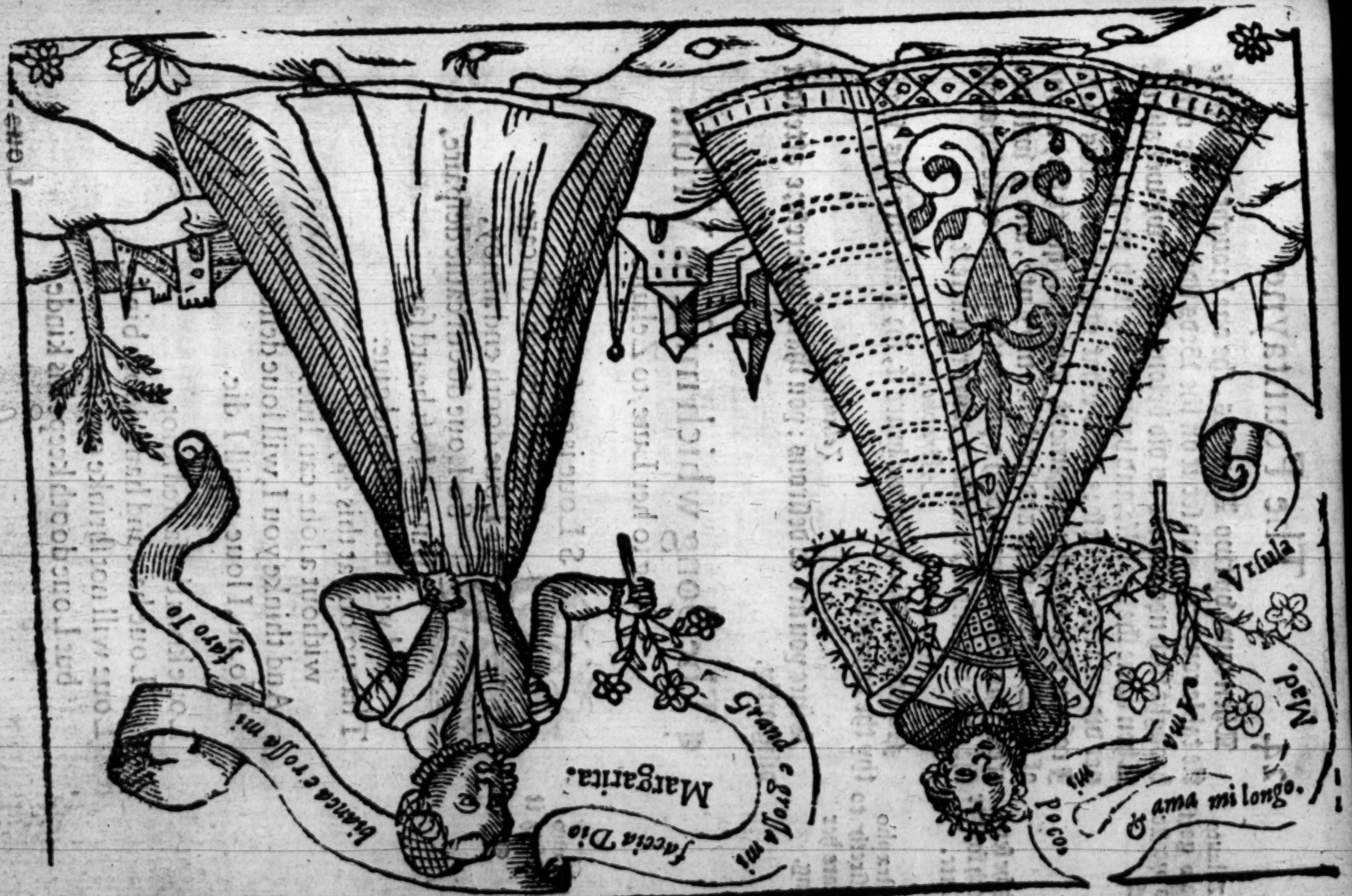
Yea Sir, and a great many more, which I am not able to rehearse. For surely the rare excellencie that I did beholde in her: made me so amazed, that I coulde not attend all her discourses.

Astræpho.

Astræpho desireth to heare more of this matter.

Now for Gods sake procede, and let me heare more of this: for surely shee is worthy of eternall remembraunce, in my iudgement.

Zelauto.


Grand e grossa mi
faccia Dio
Margarita.
bianca e rossa mi
faro Io
Vrsula
Mad.
Ama
mi
poco
& ama mi longo.

Zelauto now goeth to breake fast.

Then came vp two Damsels, the one brought a pretie litle table couered, and set it on the Beds side, and the other brought such necessaries as did belong to that we wēt about. Then came she her selfe, and brought me such meate, as I neuer did eate the like before: and what other chære was there I referre that to your iudgement. But then (quoth she) to one of her Damsels. Goe and fetch me my Lute, and I will recreat this Gentleman with a pleasant song, the copie whereof she gaue me, and for a nēde I could rehearse it.

She sendeth for her Lute.

Astrapho.

Astræpho desireth to heare her song.

Nowe good *Zelauto* let me heare it, for I am sure it is worthy the rehearsall.

Zelauto.

Since you are so desirous: you shall, wherefore attend it diligently.

¶ The Song which misteris Vrsula sung to her Lute, to Zelauto.

Zelauto reherseth it

AS Loue is cause of ioy,
So Loue procureth care:
As Loue dooth end annoy,
So Loue dooth cause despaire.
But yet I oft heard say,
and wise men like did giue:
That no one at this day,
without a loue can liue.
And thinke you I, will loue defie:
No, no, I loue, vntill I die.

Loue knits the sacred knot,
Loue hart and hand dooth binde:
Loue will not shrinke one iot,
but Loue dooth keepe his kinde.

Loue

Loue maketh freendes of foes,
loue ſtayes the common wealth:
Loue dooth exile all woes,
that would impaire our health.
Since loue dooth men and monſters inoue:
VVhat man ſo fond will loue diſproue?

Loue keepes the happy peace,
Loue dooth all ſtrife alay:
Loue ſendeth rich increaſe,
Loue keepeth warres away.
Loue of it ſelfe is all,
Loue hath no fellowe mate:
Loue cauſeth me, and ſhall,
Loue thoſe, that loue my ſtate.
Then loue will I, vntill I dye:
And all fond Loue I will defye.

FINIS.

Zelauto.

How like you now Sir of her Song? is it not bothe pithie and excellent, doth it not beare a ſinguler and great vnderſtanding withall?

Aſtrapho.

If I ſhould ſpeake all I thinke, you would hardly beléeue me, for ſurely, her ſong contayneth great and learned poyntes of wiſedome, and requireth a more expert and learned heade then mine to define thereon: And certainely it amazeth me to heare that ſuch excellencie ſhould remayne in a woman. But I pray you proceede, and let me heare more of this matter?

Aſtræpho amaſed at her ſingularity knoweth not what to ſay.

Zelauto.

After ſhe had ended her ſong: Quoth ſhe, Gentleman I

Zelauto goeth on with his tale.

truſt you are not ignorant of the meaning of my ſong, for perhaps you might alleadge ſome poynts of lewdnes or lightnes, that a woman ſhould ſo much commend Loue, but my intent therefore I referre to your good conſtruction. And nowe ſir ſince you haue refreſhed your ſelfe: let the Chirurgion vſe his cunning to your woundes: and in the meane while, I will ſend for *Signor Giouanni Martino*, and then we ſhall ſee what he will ſay to you. I thanke you good Miſteris Vrſula (quoth I) and I pray you let him be ſent for.

The Chirurgion cõmeth and dreſſeth hym againe.

So after that the Chirurgion had dressed me and I was departed: in came *Signor Giouanni Martino*. Who seeing mée, knéeled downe and kissed my hand, the which *Madonna Vrsula*, marueiled at. Then quoth I to him in his eare, I pray do not vse any such curtesie whereby I may be knowen, for because I would not be knowen to any, but if they demaund of you who I am: say that I am of Padua. Well sir (quoth he) your minde shalbe fulfilled in all thinges.

The comming in of Signor Giouanni Martino.

Then I gaue him Letters, which when he had read: he departed & brought me seuen hundred Crownes, saying, spende these whyles you are héere, and at your departure you shall haue more.

Then spake Madonna Vrsula to him. Sir, do you knowe this Gentleman. Yea forsothe (quoth he) his Parents are of great credit in Padua, wherfore I pray you let him want nothing. Well sir (quoth she) he hath wanted nothing yet, nor shall not, if you had not spoken. But nowe dynner is ready, and I will desire you to beare him company: Yes (quoth he) that I shall, wyllingly.

Well sir, to be short, there had I passed ten or twelue dayes, & was perfect whole, and then I would néedes depart. Which when she saw, she was verie sorie and pensiue. But yet (quoth she) although Sir you do depart: I hope if it be your Fortune to iourney this way againe homewarde, you will take vp your homely lodging héere. And in token that you shall remember mée: take héere this Iewell, and weare it I desire you for my sake.

Zelauto woulde néedes depart from his hostes. Her sorow for his departure.

I yéelded her a thousand thankes, recompenced her seruauntes, payed my charges. So on the morrowe morning I departed, accompanied with a Gentleman, who was an especiall frénde vnto *Signor Giouanni Martino*. And thus haue you heard the whole discourse of my first trauayle.

Zelauto departeth frō Naples.

Astrapho.

Surely heere hath beene a gallant discourse, and worthy the memorie, you are much bound in curtesie vnto that Gentlewoman. And I would it were my fortune once to happen on such an hostes. But whether iourneyed you then from Naples?

Zelauto cõmeth to Valentia in Spaine, and trauapleth with Gẽtlemen to Ciuill, from thence to Lysbone, where he happeneth on certaine

Zelauto.

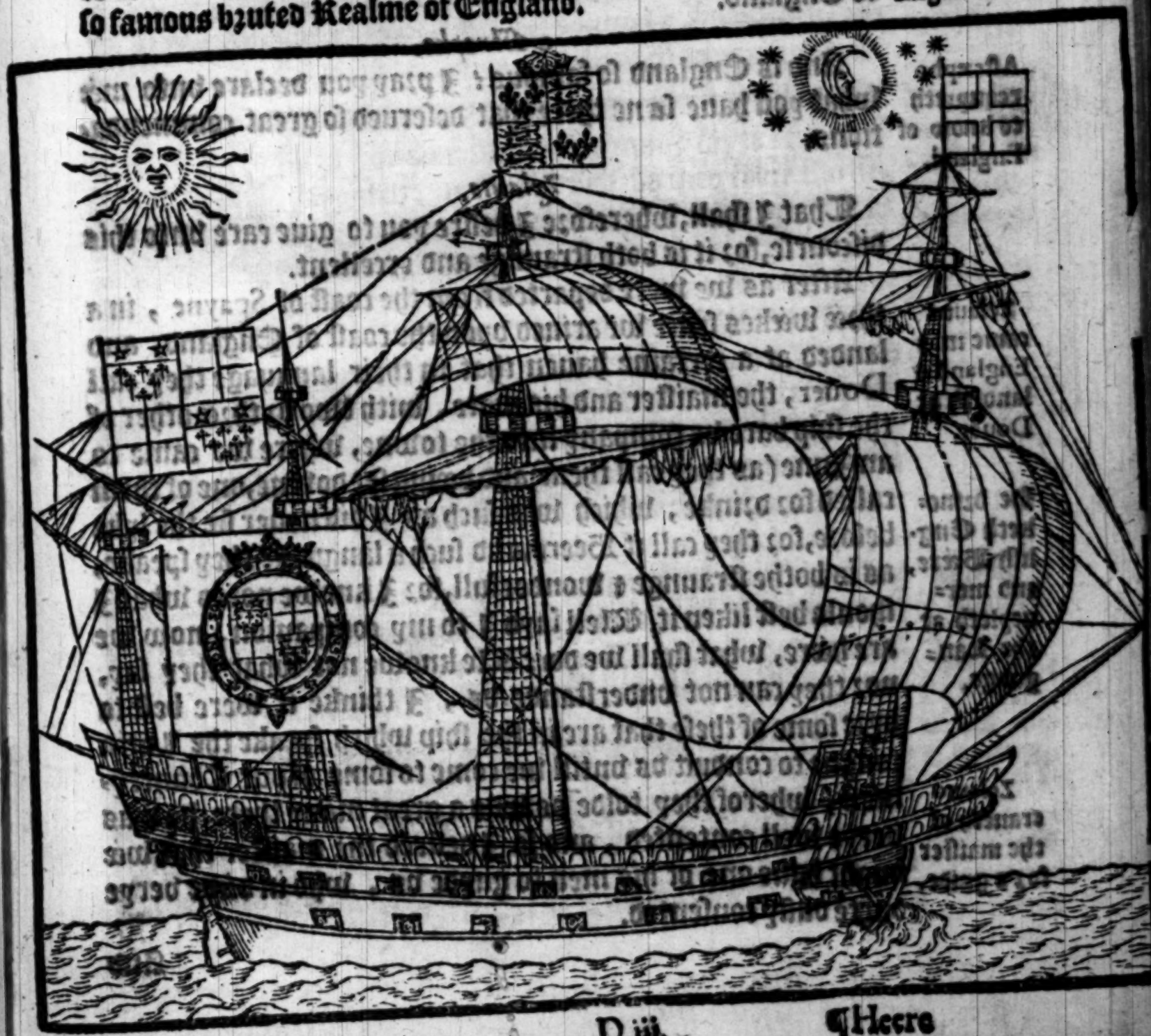
Sir (as I was about to tell you) in fewe dayes I arriued at Valentia in Spayne, where it was my chaunce to méete with certaine Gentlemen, who trauailed vnto Ciuill, and with them I went, there I remayned & my companion thrée dayes. From thence I went to Lysbone, where as I lodged in the house of one *Pedro de Barlamonte*. There lodged also certayne

English

English Merchauntes, whom I beeing very willing to talke with all: one night desired them to take part of a Supper with me. They spake the Latin tongue very well, and so of them I questioned about the vsage of their Countrey, & that of long time I had heard great commendation thereof: Also of a mayden Queene that swayed the Scepter there. I asked them whether it was so or no: They answered it was, and gaue me to vnderstand so much of their Countrey: that I would néeds, goe with them into England, who in deede were very willing, and so they hauing ended their Merchandize: we iourneyed to S. Lucas, and within fewe dayes I toke shipping into the so famous vzuted Realme of England.

Enimy the Merchãts with whõ he talketh as concerning their Countrey. Their answer.

Zelauto goeth with the Merchants to S. Lucas, so towards England.



¶Heere *Zelauto* telleth how with certayne Englisth Merchauntes he sayled into England, and what happened vnto him.

Astrapho.

Why then you stayed but a while in Spayne.

Zelauto.

No sure; for after I and my Companion had heard of the fame of Englande: we could not settle our mindes to staye there, but thought euery day a yéere vntill we myght come into England.

Astrapho.

Astræpho requyreth to know of England.

And is England so famous? I pray you declare vnto mée what you haue sene there that deserued so great commendations.

Zelauto.

That I shall, wherefore I desire you to giue eare vnto this discourse, for it is both straunge and excellent.

Zelauto came into England & landeth at Douer.

After as we were departed from the coast of Spayne, in a thrée wéekes space we ariued vpon the coast of England, and landed at a certaine hauen that in their language they call Douer, the maister and his mate, with two or thrée other of the ship bare vs company into the towne, where we came to an Inne (as they call them) and beeing set downe, one of them called for drinke, which was such as I did neuer sée the lyke before, for they call it Beere, and such a language they speake, as is bothe straunge & wonderfull, for I knowe not to what I should best liken it. Well sayd I to my companion, now we are héere, what shall we do? We knowe not what they say, nor they can not vnderstande vs, I thinke it were best to hyre some of these that are in the ship which speake the Latin tongue to conduct vs vntill we come to some of our Countrymen, wherof they tolde vs was a great many there, he was verye well contented, and so I desired the maister that wée might haue one of his men to guyde vs, who in déede verye courteously consented.

He drinketh English Béere, and merueyleth at the Language.

Zelauto craueth of the maister for a guide.

And

And then he sent to his shyp for one *Roberto*, a verie merry and pleasaunt fellowe, and he spake our language very well, he gaue him very great charge, that he should vse vs well, vntyll we came to their cheefe Cittie, which they call London, and then as sone as we came thyther: to bring vs to some of our countreymen. So we contented the Maister, got vp on Horsebacke, and so rode to London.

Roberto a very merry fellow appointed for a guide to Zelauto.

Zelauto *and his companion being come to* London, through the meanes of Roberto their guyde, they are brought to the house of one Signor Giulio di Pescara, who entertained them very curteously.

Our merry Companion, hauing brought vs to London: shewed vs many fayre and comely syghtes, as first he had vs into their Burse, where aboue were so many fine Shops full of braue deuises, and euery body layd, a mad term that they had, What lack ye, what lack ye. I merueyled what they meant by it, then I asked *Roberto* what they layd. So he tolde me, that they asked me what I would buye, if I would haue any of their fine wares. And surely in that place were many very proper and comely Women: Then he had vs, and shewed vs a very fine Vaute vnder the same, where there was a great many Shops lykewise. So then it began to wax somthing toward the euening, and then he conducted vs to the house of one *Signor Giulio*, a Gentleman of Pescara, where we had very gallant entertaynement, and so well esteemed of, as if we had bene in our owne Coutrey. This *Giulio* had maried an English Woman, who in deede, was so gentle of nature, so comely in qualities, and so proper in personage, that sure me thought she excelled. Of her lykewise we were very gently welcommed, and a very gallant Chamber prepared, with all things so necessary, and seruaunts to attend on vs so diligently, that sure it was not in vaine that England had such excel-

Zelauto is come to London to the Royall Exchaunge.

Zelauto is brought to Signor Giulio di Pescara, of his Countrey.

Zelauto lyketh well of the seruyce in England.

lent commendation. My Companion sayd, he was neuer so quiet, and so well at his hearts ease: as he was there, beeing but so lytle tyme there. For in deede (to say the trueth) I wãted nothing, but euerie thing was ready at halfe a woordes speaking, and with great reuerence also.

Zelauto commeth acquainted with Gẽtlemen of the Englishe Court.

To the house of this aforesayd *Signor Giulio*, resorted diuers Gentlemen, which were of ỹ Court of England, who shewed vs such courtesie, as it is vnspeakable. But all this whyle I would not be knowen what I was, but told them that I was a Gentleman of Naples, and my name was *Zelauto*, and that I came for my pleasure to see the Countrey. These Gentlemen, some of them dyd pertayne to men of great Honour, in the sayd Court, vnto me I lykewise came acquainted with all. But to recount the rare and excellent modestie, the vertuous lyfe adorned with ciuilytie, the hautie courage and Martiall magnaminitie, & their singuler qualyties in generall, though I had the gallantest memorie in the world, the pregnantst wit, and the rarest eloquence to depaynt them: I know my selfe were vnable to do it.

Ye chaunceth to see the noble Queene of England.

It was my chaunce within a whyle after I was acquaynted with those worthy Lordes of Honour: to come in presence where they? vertuous Mayden Queene was. But credit mee, her heauenly hew, her Princely personage, her rare Sobrietie, her singuler Wisedome: made mee stand as one bereft of his sences. For why, before mine eyes I sawe one, that excelled, all the worthy Dames that euer I haue read of.

Astrapho.

But stay Zelauto, dyd you see that pereleste Paragon: and is she so rare and excellent as you make her to be?

Zelauto.

Oh Syr, neuer can my tongue giue halfe a quarter of the prayse, that is due to that rare *Arabian Phenix*. Were *Mars* himself alyue: he would stand agast at her Heauenly behauior. And as *Timon*, when he drew the mournfull portrait, of King *Agamemnon*, for the losse of his Daughter, could not set forth his face correspondent to the sorrow that is conteyned: left the same couered with a vayle to the iudgement of others. So I,

Timon.

Agaménon

because

because I am vnable to paynt forth her passing prayse, according as desert deserueth: I remyt her vnder the vayle of Eternall memorie, to the graue iudgement of others.

Astrapho.

What now *Zelauto*? why, the Goddesses & the Graces themselues, coulde but deserue this commendation, and I am sure she is none.

Zelauto.

Were it possyble for a Goddesse to remayne on the earth at this day: credit mée, it were shée. For thus much I wyll tell yée. It is not to all Countreyes vnknowen, how well her Grace doth vnderstand and speake the languages, that of her selfe without any interpretour: she is able to aunswer any Ambassadour, that commeth to her Maiestie. Also, it is not vnknowen, howe her Princely Maiestie made the minde of the valiant *Marques Vitelli* (Ambassador sent from the King of Spayne) to be marueylously moued. This *Vitelli*, hath bene knowen a excellent warriour, and yet the rare excellencie of this Queene had almost put him cleane out of conceyt. That as he sayde him selfe: he was neuer so out of countenaunce before any prince in all his lyfe.

Marques Vitelli, Ambassador of Spayne.

It is in vaine of the Grecians to vaunt of their *Sappho*, *Corinna*, *Eriune*, *Praxilla*, *Telesilla*, *Cleobulina*, nor yet the Pithogoreans brag of theyr *Diotima*, and *Aspasia*, for theyr lyues, this is she that excelleth them all: and therfore will I say.

Sappho, Corinna, Eriune, Praxilla Telesilla, Cleobulina Pithogareans, Diotima, and Aspasia.

O decus Anglorum virgo clarissima vivas:
Donec terrigenis Præbebit lumina Titan.

O Virgin Queene, the rarest gem,
Ioue graunt thy happy race:
That whyle Dan Titan giues his lyght,
Thou mayst enioy thy place.

Titan.

Zelauto lyketh well of the seruyce in England.

lent commendation. My Companion sayd, he was neuer so quiet, and so well at his hearts ease: as he was there, beeing but so lyttle tyme there. For in deede to say the trueth) I wãted nothing, but euerie thing was ready at halfe a woordes speaking, and with great reuerence also.

Zelauto commeth acquainted with Gẽtlemen of the Englishe Court.

To the house of this aforesayd *Signor Giulio*, resorted diuers Gentlemen, which were of ỹ Court of England, who shewed vs such courtesie, as it is vnspeakable. But all this whyle I would not be knowen what I was, but told them that I was a Gentleman of Naples, and my name was *Zelauto*, and that I came for my pleasure to see the Countrey. These Gentlemen, some of them dyd pertayne to men of great Honour, in the sayd Court, whome I lykewise came acquainted with all. But to recount the rare and excellent modestie, the vertuous lyfe adorned with ciuilytie, the hautie courage and Martiall magnaminitie, & their singuler qualyties in generall, though I had the gallantest memorie in the world, the pregnantst wit, and the rarest eloquence to depaynt them: I know my selfe were vnable to do it.

Ye chaunceth to sée the noble Queene of England.

It was my chaunce within a whyle after I was acquaynted with those worthy Lordes of Honour: to come in presence where they? vertuous Mayden Queene was. But credit mée, her heauenly hew, her Princely personage, her rare Sobrietie, her singuler Wisedome: made mee stand as one bereft of his sences. For why, before mine eyes I sawe one, that excelled, all the worthy Dames that euer I haue read of.

Astrapho.

But stay Zelauto, dyd you sée that pereleste Paragon: and is she so rare and excellent as you make her to be?

Zelauto.

Oh Syr, neuer can my tongue giue halfe a quarter of the prayse, that is due to that rare *Arabian Phenix*. Were *Mars* himself alyue: he would stand agast at her Heauenly behauior. And as *Timon*, when he drew the mournfull portrait, of King *Agamemnon*, for the losse of his Daughter, could not set forth his face correspondent to the sorrow that is conteyned: left the same couered with a vayle to the iudgement of others. So I, because

Timon.

Agaménon

because I am vnable to paynt forth her passing prayse, according as desert deserueth: I remyt her vnder the vayle of Eternall memorie, to the graue iudgement of others.

Astrapho.

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Ioue graunt thy happy race:
That whyle Dan Titan giues his lyght,
Thou mayst enioy thy place.

Titan.

Let all true Engliſh harts, pronounce whyle they haue breath:
God ſaue and proſper in renown, our Queene *Elyzabeth.*

Viuat, vincat, regnat, Elyzabetha.

Aſtrapho.

Astrapho.

Zelauto, these your wordes doth agrauate an exceeding ioye in my minde, and causeth mée to thyrst with *Tantalus*, vntyll it be my Fortune to sée that happy Land, that thyse happy Princes, whome (if she be) as you make report, would cause bothe men and monsters to adore. But I pray you Syr proceede, and let me heare what happened vnto you in that Cõtrey?

Tantalus.

Zelauto.

Syr, after I had stayed there a whyle (to show this gallant Princes pastime) certaine of her worthy and famous Lordes assembled in a Tournamẽt, the brauest fight that euer I saw, & with this gallant troupe, there came a Pageant as they call them, wherein were men that spake all Languages. O Syr, I am not able to speake sufficient in prayse thereof.

The Pageant with all languages before ye Quéne.

At an other time, there was a braue & excellent deuise which went on whéles without the helpe of any man. Therein sate *Apollo*, with his heauenly crew of Musique. Beside a nũber of straunge deuises, which are out of my remembraunce.

The Pageant with Apollo, and the nine Muses.

But yet I remember one thing more, which was a braue and comely Shippe, brought in before her Maiestie, wherin were certaine of her noble Lordes, and this Ship was made with a gallant deuise, that in her presence it ran vpon a Rock, & was dispoyled. This credit was the very brauest deuise that euer I sawe, and worthy of innumerable commendations.

The Ship before her Maiestie.

Astrapho.

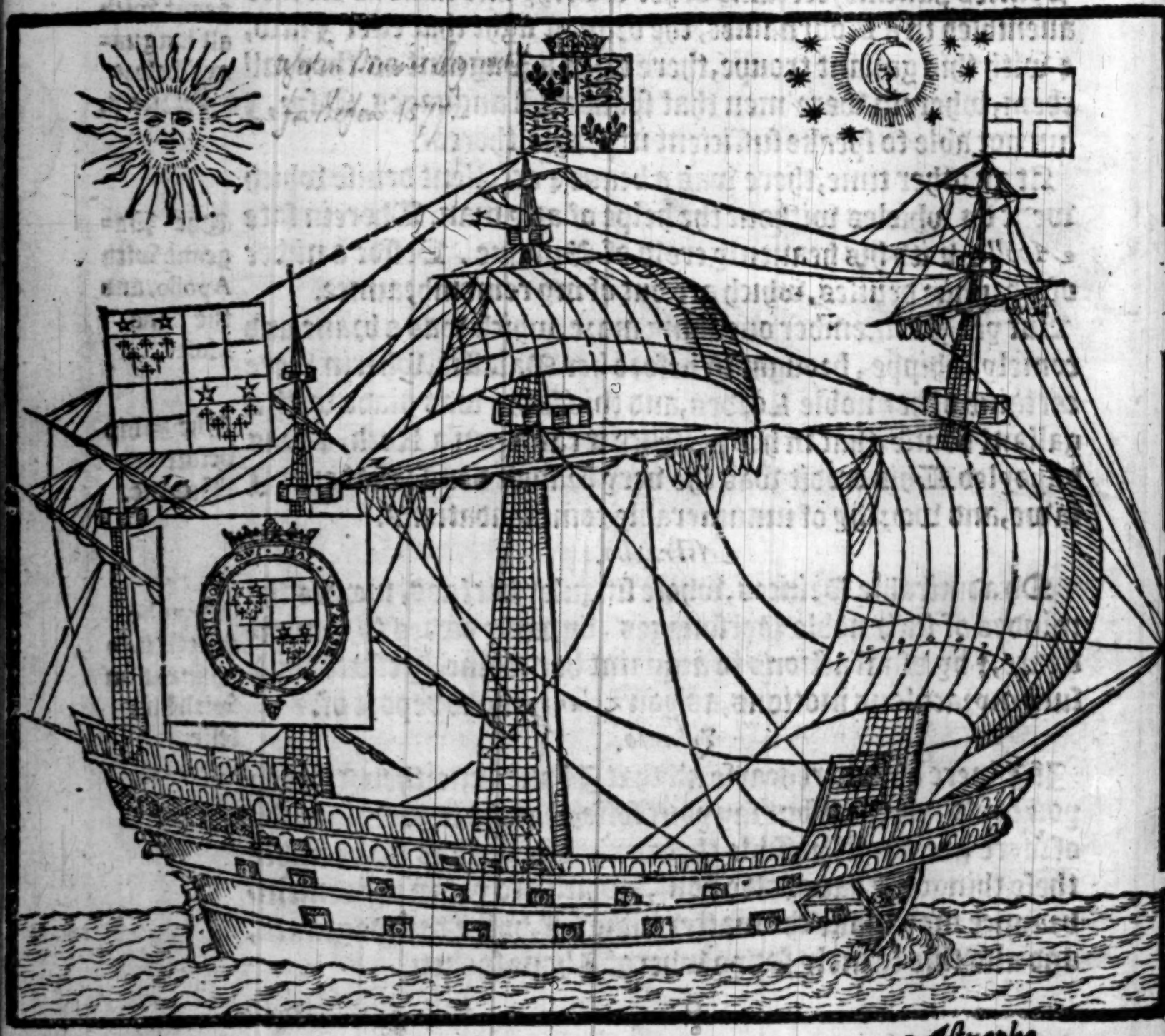
Oh admirable Princes, whose singuler vertues, moues the mindes of such noble Personages, by dayly déedes to demonstrate, & by vsual actions to acquaint her Princely estate with such myraculous motions, as you *Zelauto* make report of.

Astræpho falleth into admiration with him selfe.

Zelauto.

If I were able to rehearse all that I haue sæne: then I know you could not chuse but say your selfe, that she is well worthy of farre greater, if possible there might be such: as for example these thinges I haue tolde you, which are yet in my remembraunce may make the matter manifest, bothe the Pageants, and also this sæmely Shyp whereof I haue spoken.

In Countryes cauſe, I mount vpon the Seas,
with ſhiuering ſhot to daunt my furious foe:
It dooth me good all ſtrife for to appeaſe,
to keepe my Land free from all forrain woe.
God ſaue my Prince, that keepes a Nauy huge:
In time of neede to ſtand for her refuge.



Aſtrapho.

Astrapho.

Why? is there any Prince that can wishe or desire to lyue in more worldly pleasure, then that famous and illustrious Quéene? Or can there be more vertues resident in an earthly Creature, then her noble lyfe maketh so ample mencion of? Surely in my opinion it were vnpossible: for credit me, the rare rule of her vertuous life: maketh her Land and People in such happy estate. Wherfore good *Zelauto*, conceale not any of this matter from me, for surely I think my self happy to come to the hearing therof.

The admiration of Astræpho at the passed tale of Zelauto.

Zelauto.

Since syr, you séeme so importune on mé, and that my homly Tales dow so much delyght you: giue eare, and I wyll reade you hére one of the rarest deuises that euer you heard of. Which was a comely sort of Courtiers, prepared in a Tournament to recreate the minde of their Princes & Souereigne.

Astræphos earnest request, compelleth Zelauto to procéde to déper matters.

Astrapho.

Where want of sufficiencie remayneth, to counteruayle your euer approued courtesie: accept in token therof alwayes at your cõmaundement my dutifull seruice & loyaltie, and attendaunce shall not want, tyll I haue heard these discourses.

Zelauto taketh out of his Scrip a Book, wherin he readeth a gallant deuise presented in a Tournament, which he sawe in England.

Zelauto to pleasure his frend, telleth him an excellẽt and braue deuise done in England.

FIrst syr, to make the matter ẏ more playner vnto you, at ẏ Tylt met an armed Lady, with a Courtly Knight, well appoynted at Armes, who menacing his manly might, as though he came to Combat, began to loke about if there were any defendour. The Lady not minding the inuincible courage, and lofty loke of the Chãpion: gased vpon the renowned Princes, who was there present, debating with her selfe in inward thoughtes, the sodayn aduenture which had happened her, and hauing long loked on this sumptuous spectacle, at length with her selfe, fell into these wordes.

The Lady beeing driuē into a great admiratiō at the presēce of this peereles Princesse, vseth her talke in this order.

The Orcacades, the golden America, the East and West Indias.

WHat dooth the Gods delude mée? or hath the infernall ghosts enchaunted me with their fonde illusions? Wake I, or sléepe I? Sée I, or sée I not? What chaunce hath conuicted me? What sodayne sight hath attaynted me? Is this a Goddesse, or a mortall creature? If this be the séemely shée, that the Trumpe of Fame hath so blasted abroade: if this be the second *Saba*, to astonishe the wyse *Salomon*? then hast thou well imployed thy paynes to come and sée her. For Report running through the Orcades, the golden American countrey, and the rytch inhabited Islandes of the East and West Indias, ratling in euerie eare this rare rumour, of a gallant and renowned Mayden Quéene, that gouerned her Countrey worthily, her people peaceably, and rightly bare the tytle of inestimable dignitie, sayd in this manner.

By

BY VVeſt, a famous Region,
with Sea encompaſt round:
VVith wealth adornd aboundantly,
as lyke hath not bene found.
And euerie thing ſo plentifull,
in ſuch good order framde:
That this the Iſle of happineſſe,
by tytle true is namde.
There, there remaynes the ſeemlyeſt Queene,
that euer nature bred:
In Vertues gyftes excelling farre,
of all that we haue read.
And more then this, Diana ſo,
dooth rule her royall reygne:
That hetherto a Veſtall pure,
ſhe conſtant dooth remayne.
Adornd with vviſdome woorthily,
and learning in each caſe:
That Fame recordes her Memorie,
abroade in euerie place.
Saying, the Queene of Anglia,
the rareſt gemme alyue:
From all the Creatures on the earth,
the honour dooth depriue.
VVherfore ariſe ye noble rout,
that long this ſight to ſee:
You gallant Lordes and Ladyes all,
in Court where ere you bee.
And you ſhall ſee that ſeemely Saynt,
whereof I tell you newes:
VVhoſe view, the Gods, and mortall men,
wyll force to ſtand and muſe.

FINIS.

Vilas

WAs euer so braue a brute blased of the Imperiall *Alexander*? Was his lyfe so meritorious, that it deserued such rare renowne? Was puissant *Pompey*, euer so honoured? Or *Iulius Cæsar*, so magnifically adored? Or dyd they all deserue halfe the estimation, that by tytle true this sæmely shée mays clayme? No sure, well may their déedes be noted, as a patterne to our eyes: But their lyues shall neuer be regystred, where her Fame is enrolled. But I, the most vnfortunate creature alyue, héere in a soyle vnknowen to mée, to stand in such great hazard and doubt: Because I know not rightly, whether this be shée or no, yet doth my minde perswade me, that it were vnpossible to finde her mate. But yet if I knewe that this were shée: I would fetche the rest of my company, that they might be partakers of my long desired ioyes. But stay, what comely Champion is this so brauely mounted, ready to encounter with his mortall enemie. I wyll attend to sée what his comming is, and wherfore he standeth thus to hazard him selfe to Fortune.

The Lady doth suppose that no one deserued rightlye such condigne prayse as this péereleſſe Princeſſe.

The Lady doubteth whether this is the Princes or no, & at last loketh and espyeth the Champion.

The Champion seeing that the Lady had ended her talke, presumeth neerer, and speaketh to her, as followeth.

IT may be fayre Lady, that eyther you hope to purchase prayse, by extolling so much this renowned Quéene: Or elſe you loke for a priuate commodity to counteruayle your bolde attempt, which of them you do, I knowe not, nor which you are lykelyest to gayne, I cã not coniecture: only this I am to aunswer, that (of my self) I thinke no prayse can deseruedly patronize you: without it were more merited, and as for commoditie, you are like to get it where you can, for our charitie is nowe waxen colde.

The Chãpion speaketh to the Lady, dysdaining her talk passed, & yéeldeth her great rebuke therfore.

In déede I must thus allowe, you Women (for the most part) are giuen to prayse your owne Sex, and though there be no desert: yet wyll you prayse for your pleasure. What heroycall woordes you vsed, are not yet forgotten, and what peremptori-

He alleadgeth that women are apte to prayse their Sex.

remptorie brags you made, yet sticke on my stomacke. You commend this Princes to excell all other, and you seeme to say, that none more rightly doth deserue it then shée. If you of your selfe are able to auouch what is spoken, and of sufficient force to stand to your boasting: doubt not but you shall be dealt with all before you depart, and be constrayned to remember your selfe better an other tyme.

He vseth threatning words, thinking thereby to allay the corage of the Lady.

Haue I condempned my peerelesse *Pollinarda*: and aduaunced the Fame of this Princes? Haue I left my natiue Countrey, wherein abound choyse of delycate Dames, hoping that this should surpasse them all? And is it now come to no better effect? I see Report fatleth as pleaseth her, and maketh those fooles that thinke them selues most wyse. Pack vp to Hungaria, as wise as thou camest hyther, and all thy winnings, put in thy purse to spend when a deere yeere commeth.

He seemeth to extol his Lady aboue the Princesse.

The Lady hearing the Champion in such vnlawfull order to contempne the partie in presence, maketh him an aunswere, thereby to coole his courage.

The Lady replieth to the Champiõ, because he seemed so much to cõmend his Polinarda.

SIr Knight, neither dismayed through your presumptuous words, nor yet encouraged through any vaine hope, yet greatly agreeued at this your rude behauiour, for my part I am one who comes to see as well as your selfe, yet dislyke not so much with my selfe as you do. Seeme you to be offended at any thing passed, and extoll you your *Pollinarda* aboue this gallant Gem? I knowe it were vnpossible she should make any comparison, and I knowe this so vertuous: that she can not be her equall. Wherfore if your heart be hardened, that you dare abyde the breakfast that I shall bestowe on you, and your minde so misbeleeuing that it wyll not be reformed: I wyll allay my courage in defence of this Princes, and force you to confesse you haue chosen too hard a choyse.

The Lady bydeth battell to the Champion in defence of her cause

The Champion perceyuing the Lady so wylling to ſtand to her woords paſſed, and that by force of Armes ſhe would mayntaine her cauſe: replyeth.

The Chāpion taketh the offer of the Lady, wylling to enter Combat.

LAdy, if your courage be ſo correſpondent, and your manhood ſo equiualent, that you dare ſæme to auouch your preter preſumption, though ſmall honour I ſhall gayne by conquering a Woman, and no victorie to ſpeake of, it ſhall be to vanquiſhe you: yet wyll I teach you how you ſhall behaue your ſelfe an other time, and how to beware to make your choyſe ſo hard.

The Lady replyeth.

The Lady prayeth for aſſistance.

AS for that Syr Knight, we ſhall deale well inough. Now God aſſiſt me in this my enterpriſe, and as I know my quarrell good and lawfull: ſo hope I the victorie ſhall be lawdable and gainfull. Thinke not Syr Knight, although God hath giuen the greater courage, the more magnanimitie, and the bolder behauiour to your Sex: he hath vtterly reiected the weaker veſſelles.

She applieth her gifts equiualent to hys kifts.

In ſtæde of your courage, he hath indued vs with comely condicions, and in place of magnanimitie, he hath graffed womanly modeſtie: and for your bolde behauiour, he hath beſtowed on vs bountifull beautie. So that aſpect our beautie: your boldneſſe is blunted, reſpect our modeſtie: your magnanimitie is but meane, and our comely conditions, wyll ſone quayle your courage, and as howe. A Gentleman voyde of of Vertue: his behauiour is wurſe then a Begger, a meane perſon adorned with vertue: is a precious Iewell abowe ſuch a Gentleman. Therefore may it rightly be ſayde, and ſufficiently auouched, that vertuleſſe Gentillytie: is wurſe then Beggerie.

Vertuleſſe Gentillytie is wurſe then Beggerie.

You syr for example, if any iot of Gentillytie, or any signe of humanitie, seemed to be extant in you: you would vse your talke with more discrecion, and demonstrate that which I perceyue is not in you. Is it your bolde behauiour that doth purchase you prayse? Is it your melancholy magnanimitie, that maketh you euer the more manfull? Or is it your craking courage, that wyll make you euer the sooner commendable? No, in stede of these place honest humanitie: and then I warrant you shall not seeme so haughtie, for bolde behauiour, vse knightly courtesie: and then your deedes wyll appeare more worthy, for your mysused manhode, frequent decent magnanimitie: and then your Fame shall be wytnessed accordingly, and for your craking courage, vse Courtly ciuilitie: then shall you be honoured, where now you are nothing estemed. But as your Countrey is barbarous: so is your behauiour, and as an Ape cloathed in a coate of golde, by his condicions is an Ape styll: So good talke ministred to one that careth not therefore: is euen better well spared then euyll spent.

The Lady chargeth him with greater matters then he looked for.

The Lady heere learneth him a lesson.

The Champion incensed with great anger, commeth neerer the Lady, saying.

AVaunt presumptuous peasant, seemest thou to vse chyldishe wordes to me? Thinkest thou I wyll be taught of such a Varlet as thou? No, Ile sone cole your courage, therefore delay no longer, but defend thy selfe.

The Champion scorning the Ladies good talke, answereth.

The Lady.

SInce neyther frendly councell, nor wisdome of thine owne selfe is able to warne thee, but that thou wylt hazard thy hap in hope to conuince me: defend thy selfe manfully, and I as womanly, so that begin when thou please, for I am perfectly prouided.

The Champion rydeth to the one end of the Tylt, and she to the other, and there they deale according as the order and custome is therof, after halfe a score Staues be broken: the Champion was throwen beside his Horse, to whome the Lady came thus saying.

The Lady hauing vāquished the Champion, sayth thus.

What Syr, is *Miles Gloriosus*, or triumphing *Thraso*, who thought it were vnpossible to pull his pearched plumes, or to cease his corragious countenaunce: nowe brought to so bad a banquet? Alas this he who thought him selfe no nothing inferiour to *Alexander*, as puissant as

as *Pompey*, as hautie as *Hannibal*, *Hector* or *Hercules*, as courragious as *Cæsar*, as stoute as *Sampson* or *Scipio*: And nowe foyled at the handes of a Woman? Where is now thy brauerie? Where is thy vaine vaunting? Where is thy presumptuous, peremptorie perswasions? Where are now all thy manly motions? Now dasht amyd the dust? now sent to sæke succour, and thou and all thy might now subiect to my valiancy? How sayst thou, wylt thou reuolt thy former words, and content thy selfe to yælde submission to this pæreleſſe Princes; or dye the death which thou hast rightly deserued?

The Champion seeing himself in such a pittifull plight, and that all this whyle he had maintayned a wrong opinion, desired the Lady he might stand vp, and then spake as followeth.

RENowned Princes, and you most worthy Lady, as my fact is so faultie, that I can craue no forgiuenesse, and my dæde so desperatly done, that it deserueth due discipline: yet am I to desire you to permyt me a lyttle patience, and to ponder my words at your curteous pleasure. First, where folly so guided me, and selfe wyll so blinded me, that I was lead with euerie lewde report, and euerie tatling tale, I not minding the rare vertues resident, in the Princely person whome I haue so haynously offended: let my tongue run at lybertie, where nowe I repent me.

The Champion ashamed of his bolde presumption desireth that they wouide heare his sorrowfull discourse.

Next, thinking mine owne manhode sufficient to contend bothe against Men and Monsters: made me to commend my *Polinarda*, whome I nowe perceyue is farre inferiour. Let therefore my cause be construed at your clemencie, let pittie pleade my case, though I be nothing worthy, and I vowe whyle life lasteth to her such dutifull alleageaũce: that I hope you wyll count my seruice worthy commendation. In so doing, that valiant trayne which I brought with me, who are not farre hence attending my comming; shall and wyll be all contented to serue at your pleasure.

He repenteth that he prayſed so much his Polinarda.

The Lady seeing the dutifull showe of submission in the Knight, commeth to him, saying.

The Lady commeth to the Champion, pronouncing him pardō, in hope of his amendment.

WEll syr Knight, in hope that your after seruice shall prowue so permanent as héere you haue auouched, and that you euer hereafter in this péereleſſe Princes cause, wyll bothe lyue and dye. I dare pronounce that you are pardoned, and that your offence shall be no more remembred.

Cæsar got him such a noble name, through his great compassion, and that made Cicero so much to commend him. Licurgus, when he had his eye put out, by the neglygence of *Alcander*: commaunded that his first offence should be forgiuen, he would be more hédefull in the nert. Eusebius, wounded to the death with a stone, throwen from the hand of a Woman: on his death bed forced his frēendes to sweare, that they would not harme her for it. I may lykewise alleage the wordes of Virgill to thée: *Forsan et hoc olim meminisse iuuabit*: and that the sentence of Euripides wyll byd thée beware: *Dulce est meminisse malorum*. Nowe is thy first fault forgiuen, in hope of amendment, so that rather prayse shall be purchased by pardoning thine offence: then that rigour should rule to exact on so penitent an offender. Therefore behold, when Justice sayth strike: Mercie by mildnesse doth stay the sword, & when a crime is cōmited deseruing death: Pitty doth worke on the offenders behalfe. Therefore whyle thou lyuest, homage her whose mercifull minde, wyll not reuenge with rygor: for that Vertue hath caused her to pittie thine estate, and thou and all that are her dutifull Subiectes: say, *God saue our most vvoorthy Queene*. Therefore goe your way, and fetche the rest of your trayne, and so wyll I bring with me all my noble Ladyes, and then will we goe together, to procure some farther pastime.

Cicero in Oratione Pro rege Deiotaro.

Alcander who put out Licurgus eye.

Eusebius.

Virgill.

Euripides.

After

After they had bothe brought theyr
traynes, they fell to a freſhe Tournament, and
ſo ended this Deuiſe.

Zelauto.

Now syr, haue I not wearied you with this long & tedious discourse? Tell me I pray you how lyke you of it? Is it not worthy to be caryed in remembraunce, because it is such an excellent deuise?

Astrapho.

Credit me syr, it is the prayest deuise that euer I heard of, and if it shall please you to bestowe the same on me: I wyll giue you as gallant a discourse to cary with you.

Zelauto.

Syr, any thing I haue is at your commaundement, and I would it were so déere a gyft, as I could finde in heart to bestowe on you.

Astrapho.

I thanke you for your good wyll hartily. But do her noble Péeres and Lords that are about her, often vse to recreate her person with such braue and straunge deuises?

Zelauto.

Syr, those gallant youthes do, and haue bestowed abounddaunce in the pleasing of her Maiestie, and are so well contented therwithall: that surely it surpasseth any mans wit to giue them prayse according to theyr desert.

Astrapho.

But dyd you euer come in acquaintaunce with any of those noble Gentlemen?

Zelauto telleth how much bound he was to a noble Lord in the English Court.

Zelauto.

Yea Syr, and am much bound to one of them in especiall, who sure in magnanimitie of minde, and valure of courage, representeth in that famous Land, a second *Cæsar*, to the view of all that know him. And a lyttle before I departed out of that worthy Countrey, I wrote a few verses in the commendation, of that vertuous Mayden Quéene: and also I wrote a few other in prayse of that noble Lord, to whome I am bound for his singuler bounty.

Astrapho.

I pray you Syr, if those verses be not out of your remembraunce: let me heare some part of them?

Zelauto.

That you ſhall, wherfore marke what I wryt in the prayſe of the Engliſh Quéene.

Zelauto writt verſes in the prayſe of the Queen.

Zelauto heere telleth to *Aſtræpho*, the verſes that he wrote in the commendation of the Engliſhe Queene.

IF eyes may iudge, and minde may full ſuppoſe,
the Vertues rare, that I of late haue ſeene:
Then pen at large, may perfectly diſcloſe,
the ſeemely honour of a Virgin Queene.
VVhoſe perfect prayſe deſerues to be vnfolde:
And blaſde abroade in trumpe of beaten Golde.

The *Graces* three attendant ſtand at beck,
Diana dooth her royall raygne ſupport:
Vertue dooth ſtand, all vice to countercheck,
and *Modeſtie* beares ſway in all her Court.
Trueth rules aloft, repelling darke debate:
Iuſtice dooth ſway the ſwoord of her eſtate.

Prudence dooth ſtand, on right ſide of this *Queene*,
and *Temperaunce* a Garland holdes before:
Then *Fortitude* ſtandes ioyntly them betweene,
and *Tryall* he dooth garde her euermore.
Peace on the left ſyde, *Plentie* on the other:
Thus ſeemely they adorne the *Queene* their mother.

Sobrietie dooth beare the flagge on hye,
Virginitie ſtandes clothde in Veſtall white:
Her trayne behinde borne by *Humilitie*,
Pittie lykewiſe, waytes on this woorthy wight.
Thus euerie thing ſtandes in ſo good a frame:
That farre and neere, dooth ſpreade her golden *Fame*.

FINIS.

Aſtræpho.

Aſtræpho merueyleth

Zelauto, beleeue me, I neuer heard in all my lyfe ſo many Vertues reſident in a mortall creature. But certaynly as I know

know your iudgement is excellent in such matters: so I confesse agayne, that had I not heard it of you, I would not haue beléeued it. But now Syr, I pray you let me heare the verses which you wrote in commendation of that noble Gentleman, whome you praysed so much lykewise.

at this rare report.

Zelauto.

That you shall, and I would I were able by pen to prayse, or by paynes to requte his singuler great curtesie.

Zelauto writ verses in the prayse of a noble Lord

Heere *Zelauto* rehearseth the verses that he wrote in the prayse of a certayne Noble Lorde in the Englisn Court.

IF euer *Cesar* had such gallant Fame,
or *Hanniball*, whose martiall lyfe we read:
Then in your Honour, I esteeme the same,
as perfect proofe in vertue and in deede.
My pen vnable is your prayse to paynt:
VVith Vertues rare, that dooth your minde acquaynt.

VVhat I haue found, I neede not to expresse,
what you haue done, I farre vnwoorthy was:
But Nature yet dooth cause me thinke no lesse,
bnt that with looue you dyd respect my case.
And such great looue dyd in your heart abound:
That straunge it is the freendship I haue found.

VVherfore for aye I Honour your estate,
and wishe to you, to lyue *Argantus* lyfe:
And all your deedes may prooue so fortunate,
that neuer you doo taste one iot of stryfe.
But so to lyue, as one free from annoy:
In health and wealth, vnto your lasting ioy.

FINIS.

Astrapho.

Surely, belyke *Zelauto* you haue found great frændshippe at that noble Gentlemans handes. But referring all other matters aside, tell me what became of your Companiõ, that went with you into England?

Zelauto.

Truly he was so farre in loue with the Countrey, that I could not get him from thence when I departed. And in déede so would I lykewise haue stayde, if my Fathers commaundement had not bene such, which caused me to hasten away, because I would sée other Countryes.

Astrapho.

Then you dyd depart shortly after, and left your Companion there?

Zelauto taketh shypping into Persia.

Zelauto.

Yea Syr. And from thence I toke shypping to goe into Persia. But many were the myseries that I poore soule abode among the tyrannous Turkes.

Astrapho.

Astræpho séemeth to tell Zelauto of his bolde hearding himselfe in such order.

But durst you séeme to wander so farre as to put your selfe, in hazard of lyfe among those cruell and bloody Turkes. You remembred not belyke your Fathers commaundement, who wylled you to guide your selfe so well: that your returne might be to his eternall ioy, but rather as desperate, hauing a youthfull head and a running wyt, would venture on your owne destruction.

Zelauto.

Zelauto excuseth his boldnesse as well as he can.

In déede Syr, who mindeth not the after miserie: wadeth often so farre that he is cleane ouer shoes, so I more vpon pleasure then any other cause: put my selfe to God and good Fortune on that behalfe, yet was I not vnmindfull of my Fathers preceptes, for that I purposed nothing, but found it to my profit.

Astrapho.

They goe to supper.

Well *Zelauto*, it drayweth now towarde night, and we haue well spent this tyme in talke. Let vs now goe in, and prouide something for our Supper. And to morrow we wyll discourse

of

of your other aduentures at large.

Zelanto.

I am well contented Syr, and a thousand thankes I yéelde you for your courteſie.

The Author.

THus hath *Zelanto* and *Aſtrapho* paſſed one day in talke together, and now are gone to prouide ſuch neceſſaries as are néedefull to ſuffice theyr hungrie ſtomackes: howe they ſpent the next day: the matter enſuing ſhall make manifeſt. Thus yéelding my ſelfe (gentle Reader) vnto thy courteous conſtruction, and not to a raſhe Reporters reprehenſion: I wiſhe my worke might procure thée as much pleaſure, as my good will is to worke thy welfare.

Vale.

Honos alit Artes.

FINIS. *A. Munday.*

Zelauto.

His Ariuall in *Perſia*, his va-*liant aduenturing in the defence* of a Lady, condempned for her Chriſtianitie, his proſperous Perigrination among the tyrannous Turkes, with the reſt of his Knightly deedes.

¶ *The ſecond part of the* Fountayne of Fame.

Written by A. M.

Honos alit Artes.

The Author, to the curteous Reader.

WHo but behelde the one syde of *Ianus*: woulde hardlie iudge that he were so rare misshaped. And who but viewed the vpper part of a *Siren*: would think she were a whole womā incorporat. So who but readeth the beginning of a booke: can giue no iudgement of the sequell ensuing. The Fryer in the midle of his sermon, cryed the best was behind: and I hauing tolde you a peece of a tale, say the fineſt followeth. So, if that you beholde *Ianus* perfectly: you shall see his deformednesse, and if you see all partes of the *Siren*: you shall finde the alteration, lykewise if you reade all the booke: you shall not be deluded by (the best is behinde) but so to reprehend mine excuse. The Printer (you will say) hath painted it full of Pictures, to make it be bought the better: and I say the matter is more meritorious, and therefore you should buy it the sooner. So, if you wyll be ruled by the Printer and me: you shall at no tyme want any of the Bookes.

The homelyest house, may be hansome within: the simplest Garden, may haue Flowers woorth the smelling, and a weather beaten Bulwarke, may hold out the bolde blowes of a well wintered Soldier. Many a good Captayne, may goe in a playne coate, and many an honest man, may walke simply arayde. Therefore, the

homlyneſſe of the houſe, dooth not reprehend the hanſomneſſe, the ſympleneſſe of the Garden, condempne the ſweet ſent of the Flowers, nor the Bulwark diſbaſe the ſtoutnes of the Soldier, lykewiſe, the playne coate of the Captaine dooth not diminiſh his manhood: nor the meane aray of the Citizen, impayre any of his honeſty: Neyther dooth the bluntnes of my Booke, altogether condempne me: nor the meane methode of the matter, diminiſh any iot of the good wyll of the Author, you can haue no more of a Catte but her ſkyn: nor of me more then I am able to doo. Well, I wyll not trouble you with wreſting many woords, nor hinder you from hearing that which enſueth: you haue free entraunce into the Orchard, pluck where you pleaſe, looue where you lyke, and fancy where you finde fyttеſt.

FINIS.

Your freend.
A. Munday.

Aſtrepho.

NOw Syr *Zelauto*, you haue ſæne, the whole courteſy, that I your pœꝛs fræende can ſhoꝛw you, to feaſt you with Foꝛtunes fare (I call it ſo) becauſe as to day I haue it, and to moꝛꝛoꝛw it is vncertayn, therefoꝛe it commeth by ſodayne chaunce, and alſo to lodge you in my carefull couch, harde and vnpleaſant, the furniture therto belonging all of moſſe & leaues, yet well doth it cõtent me, becauſe I haue vſed my ſelfe therto, to you I knoꝛwe it is ſtraunge, and no meruayle, becauſe the Pꝛincely pleaſures that is in your famous fathers Manſion, as yet ſtick vpon your ſtomack. My ſelfe, hauing remayned hœre full fouretœne yœres and moꝛe, haue cleane foꝛgot, my pꝛeter delightes, my wanton conceyts, and my layes of Loue. Noꝛw to the ſpꝛouting ſpꝛayes I commend my ſute, the Hylles, the Dales, the Rockes, the Clyffes, the Cragges, yea, and the gallant Eechoes reſound of this ſolitary Wyldeſſe, they & none but they can witneſſe of my woe. In Court I ſerued, to my ſmall auayles, I ſued to a ſelfe wylled Saint, I complayned, and it was not regarded. But hœre I lyue as Pꝛince within my ſelfe, not foe to any, noꝛ none to me. I adoꝛe my God. I feaſt my ſelfe as well as I can, as foꝛ my garmentes, though they be homely, yet are they healthfull, foꝛ Silken ſutes, are not to wander among the bꝛyery bꝛakes withall. What care I foꝛ money, I haue Nobody to bater withall, my Hoſte aſketh me no money when I ryſe from bꝛeakfaſt, dinner oꝛ ſupper, then what ſhould I doo with it? If in your carefull Citties, you as lyttle regarded, your coyne as I: you ſhould not haue ſo much extoꝛcion, ſo much bꝛybing to Officers, ſo much wꝛãgling and iarring among the common ſoꝛt,

Aſtræpho in the moꝛning beginneth to talk with Zelauto, deſiring him to accept in good part his homely entertainment.

He ſhoweth how he nédeth not to accept of coyne, foꝛ becauſe he hath Nobody to bater withal.

Money in Cities cauſeth much miſchœfe

diſcencion among the commons, diſcorde among frēndes, & ſuch lyke iniuries.

ſort, ſo much encroching one vpon another, and to conclude, you ſhould not haue ſo many diuelliſh deuiſes frequēted, therfore I do not aſpect for my priuate commoditie, I lyue not hēre by pride or by vſurie, but I take all contentedly, ſo to no man am I enemie. This homely diſcourſe, for a mornings good morrowe I truſt will ſuffice, now muſt I deſire you to procēde in your promiſed affayres, touching the reſt of your miſhappes.

Zelauto.

Zelauto yēldeth innumerable thanks for the great courteſies that he hath found, bēing but in dēde a ſtraunger.

Courteous Sir, if my ſlender habilitie, were of ſuch and ſo great a puiſſaunce, as might but ſeme to counteruayle the large and ineſtimable courteſie, that I haue founde at your hands vndeſeruedly: I might then then the bolder behaue my ſelfe in your company. But as where nothing is to be had, the King loſeth his right: euen ſo I hauing nothing, yēld my ſelfe to your courteous conſideration (alwayes remembred) that if it ſhall pleaſe God to ſende ſuch ſucceſſe, as of long I haue loked for: I doubt not (though not able to ſatiſfie the whole, wherin I am indebted) yet to recompence the greateſt part as nēre as I can. And this by the way to aſſure your ſelfe, though lothe to ſpend ſo much lyp labour in promyſing you preferment, doubt not but in heart I will remember you, and that to your contentment.

Aſtrapho.

Aſtrapho deſirous to heare the reſt of his trauayles: remēbreth him of his former promiſe.

Syr *Zelauto*, hēre nēdeth no ſuch thanks, if I could beſtow ſo much of you, as my poore heart would wyllingly affoord: I doubt not but then you would thanke me. In the meane whyle, take as you finde, welcome your ſelfe though you be not bidden, ſhut vp the ſacke when it is but halfe full, & giue God thankes for all. But procēde I pray you as touching your promiſe, for I greatly deſire to heare what after happened you.

Zelauto.

I ſhall ſatiſfie your aſpectation wyllingly, but giue eare I pray you, and marke it attentiuely, for you ſhall heare the tenour of a ſtraunge and tragicall Commedy.

Zelauto remooueth his Thought to haste out of England.

Heer *Zelauto* telleth how he departed from the royall Realme of England, and arriued at Zebaia in Persia, and of the great courtesy that he found with his Host *Manniko Rigustello*, and also of his wife named *Dunia*.

Zelauto his cõming to Zebaia in Persia, to the house of one Mãnko Rigustello, who lodged Christẽs.

BEing departed from my Companion, & from that thrise renowned Realme of England, after many hard and difficill passages: I arriued at Zebaia, a gallant and braue Citie in Persia. Being come

thyther, alas I wyst not what to say, the people so gased vpon me, as though they would haue eaten me, so at last I entred into the signe of the Gorgons head, which is a house of lodging for Straungers. When I came in, I found my Hoste and his Wife sitting by the fire at supper, I saluted them in their owne language as well as I could, mary mine Hostesse was a Florentine, and she did quickly perceyue what countreyman I was, wherefore she rose vp, and very courteously bad me welcome, so presently I was had vp into a Chamber, & a good fire made, then I sate down & communed with mine Hostes.

The hostes of the house a Christian a Florentin.

The talke betweene mystres *Dania* and *Zelanto* in his Chamber,

The hostes and Zelanto conferreth together about his comming to that place, and informeth him of ỹ lawes & orders of that City.

Syr (quoth she) as the sight of a Christian in this place, is a thing of great lyking vnto me: euen so are you welcome, although as yet vnacquainted. But neyther to stand vpon the niceneſſe of Rethoricall gloſes, nor to trifle the time with long and doubtfull delayes, this I am to enforme you, we are heere subiect vnder a Law, to which Law, wyll we, nyll we, we muſt obey, the Law doth thus farre ſtretch in charge, that no Christiã muſt abide in ỹ Cittie aboue ten dayes, if longer, to their owne peryll, in which tyme, the Hoſte muſt be ſworn for his good vſage, and to ſée if that he kéepe due and decent behauiour in his houſe. Now Syr, you hauing taken vp your lodging heere: my Huſband is vpon his good lyking to giue his word for you. Thinke not Gentleman that I ſpeake to diſcourage you, for you ſhall finde your ſelfe heere as well vſed as in your owne Countrey, I am my ſelfe a Chriſtian borne, and wyll ſtand your frend in more then I wyll nowe make my vaunt of: therefore (by the way) I giue you firſt to vnderſtand our Lawes, & other matters we ſhall the better diſcourſe afterwardes.

The hostes proffereth herſelf to be his frend.

Gentlewoman (quoth I) I would that my ſimple and meane behauiour, might once be worthy to deſerue, the courteſie of ſuch a frendly entertaynment, & ſurely in the informing me of the Lawes and Cuſtomes of your Citie: you haue done me no ſmall pleaſure, for otherwiſe, I might

Zelanto giueth her great thanks for her courteſie.

might haue by some one occasion vnwittingly violated them. But now since you (on mere courtesie) hath done thus much for me: I am to yelde you a thousand thankes. Well syr (quoth she) then if I might be so bolde, I would enter into a lyttle talke with you. Truly Gentlewoman (quoth I) you are not so wylling: as hartily welcome, therefore say what pleaseth you.

She demandeth of what countrey he is, & wherfore his cõming is, and whether hée minded to make his iourney.

Then syr (quoth she) since your patience hath pardoned my rash attempt: I am the bolder without blushing to craue such courtesie at your handes, as to rehearse of whence you are, from whence you come, what moued you to visite this place, and whether you minde to trauayle. Suspect no subtyll Sophistrie in this my demaund (good syr) but rather impute my boldnesse to countrey behauiour, and to one that wisheth your welfare.

Zelauto reposing a good beléefe in his hostesse, because hée was a christian, openeth to her of whence he was, & how he had trauayled other countreyes, and howe hée meant to trauelle, tyll his tyme were expyred.

Genlewoman (quoth I) to dissemble were no part of frendly familiaritie, to lye, would impayre my name and credite, to tell trueth also, may héere perhappes to returne to myne owne endamagement, but buylding my assuraunce on your Christian fidelitie, and hoping you will not séeke to worke my harme wilfully, but wyll rather adiuuate me in my necessitie: to you wyll I vnfolde the sum of my secretes. First I am a Venetian borne, and my Father, if lyuing (as I hope he be) thereof is Duke, my youthfull minde béeing addicted to sée forrayne Countreyes: left my Father, and toke my selfe to trauayle. So after the view of other Countreyes: Fortune hath sent me hether, where I must be no long abyder, because fowre yéeres and more are fully expyred, and my tyme doth amount but vnto sixe yéeres, and to aunswer whether I shall goe from hence: I can not, because I must craue your good and frendly direction in my voyage, that I may escape from mine enimies: and safely returne home into my Countrey.

In déede syr (quoth she) I can not blame you, to kéepe your selfe so secrete, if you be discended of so noble a house, and for my part, you shall be iniured by no way, but rather aduaunced, and if lyfe, goodes, or what euer else may pleasure you: be bolde, for they are ready at your commaundement. By

She aunswereth him verie honestly & ciuilly, so it drewe at length to supper time

this

this tyme it wared somewhat darke, and supper was ready, so the meate bæing serued vp into my Chamber, the Yoste came, and he, his wife and I, supped altogether.

The talke which *Manniko Rigustello* the host, Dania his wife, and Zelauto had together at Supper.

The Yoste bæing at supper with Zelau, knowing he was a

Manniko Rigustello the Yoste, sitting at the Table, and sæing that I was a Christian, he bæing one him selfe that of long tyme endeuoured to become a Christian: desired me, (if I coulde) to rehearse some

some part of the Scripture, whereby he might receyue comfort and consolation, for the want of which he was long time troubled and vexed in his spyrit. Quoth I, though not so able as I would I were, yet wyll I reueale such things vnto you, as I haue no doubt but you shall be comforted thereby, and I wyll helpe to mitigate your wounded conscience, by the sweet and blessed promises of our Lord and saiuour Iesus Christe, a soueraigne medicine against all frailties of the vyle and voluptuous flesshe.

Christian, and had a good minde to the same him selfe, entreth into talke with him.

Heere *Zelauto* rehearseth to *Astræpho* the comfortable talke that he vsed to his Hoste *Mannico Rigustello*, and of the conuersion of his Hoste.

AFter that God of his infinit goodnesse & mercy, had framed all things according to his heauenly will and pleasure, as first the day and night, nexte the trées, the earth, the sea, the fishes, the fowles, and all liuing beasts: then made he mã the Image of his owne lykenes, and graffed into him reason

The creation of mã. Gene. 1.

Man made a gouernor. The beastes to labour for him, and to be his foode lykewise.

and vnderstanding, whereby he excelled all the creatures of the earth, insomuch, that he gaue him the domination ouer all other creatures, as the Oxe bothe to labour for him, and to be sustentation to his body likewise, the Horse to beare his wearie carkase, after his tedious labour, and other creatures beside for his behowse and nourishment.

Man, what a losse hee had.

But man amyd all his gallant ioyes, receyued so sharpe and so heauy a fall: that for euer he lost his paradisall pleasures. Before, lyuing at lybertie, wāting nothing to his prosperity, was now driuen into such a perplexitie, that he must eate his

Mā, cast out of Paradise.

bread in the sweat of his browes, tyll the ground by his wearie labour, beside, sustayning the wrathfull countenaunce of his heauenly Creator, that before was bent towarde him so lowingly: nowe cast out vtterly, ashamed to come before his Maiestie, so horrible was his sinne & iniquitie, that the quantitie of his losse to vs is vnspeakable.

God yet would not leaue vs succorlesse, but sent his Prophetes to preache to vs, then his Christ to pay the raūsome of our sinnes & what greeuous tormētes he did abyde for vs: yet we do not seeke to amende our naughtie lyuing, but day ly sinne more and more.

But what of that, dyd God for euer after leaue vs desolate? dyd he send vs no comfort to succour vs? Yes, yes, his Prophets to preache to vs, lastly, his deere Sonne to ransome vs, who when we were at the brinke of vtter destruction, payed the price of his precious blood, to redeeme vs. What mockings: what scoffinges: what raylinges: what spytting in the face: what whipping: what crowning with thorne: what nailing on the Crosse? and what tyrannous tormentes dyd hee meekely, patiently, lowingly, gently, yea, & wyllingly suffer for our sinnes. But alas how lyttle do we regard it: we that knowe there is a God, & a punishment due to our sinnes: seeke not to amend our lyues. You that lyue in darkneſſe, and not able to attayne to so cleere lyght: how wilfully, how wantonly, how wickedly you leade your lyues because you wyll not knowe this. When you catche a Christian, a member of that sweete body that suffred all these torments, then triūphe you, what mercileſſe tormentes he must abyde, alas, my heart bleedeth for to thinke on, howe tyrannically you can finde in heart to vse him?

Zelauto telleth him what cruelty they vse to a poore mēber of Christes body, when they take him.

Through want of knowledge of God

And whereof groweth this great crueltie you vse? only for want of the knowledge of God. If you knew what God is:

you

you would then consider with your selues, howe you should dw to an other man as you would be done to your selfe.

If you knewe God, you would neuer call on such a vaine thing as *Mahomet* is: but on the true God, he which lyueth and reygneth euerlastingly. If you knew God: you would then beléeue in his Christe, (whose name you can not abyde) and then you would consider what and how many grieuous tormentes he suffered for you, and then would you rather séeke to increase the members of his body: then to make such hauocke and spoyle of them as you dw. So that if you knew God: you should be partakers with his déere children, in the kingdome of heauen.

cõmeth this great tirãny.

To knowe God is to do as we would be done vnto.

To knowe God, to worship him only.

To know God, to beleeue in his Christe.

To knowe God, bringeth lyfe euerlasting.

Mannikó Rigustello the Hoste reasoneth with *Zelauto*.

The Hoste moued in minde at the talke of Zelauto: entreth into farder communicatiõ with him.

SYr (quoth the Hoste) by this your talke, I am greatly moued in minde. First, to consider the blindnesse in which I haue lyued: Next to thinke on the happy and blissfull lyfe that you Christians haue. But syr, I haue cõmuned with a great many that haue come hether, and they in déede haue tolde me part of that which euen now you sayde, and haue hartned me verie much, but none that euer came so néere the quicke as you dw: well letting that passe, I am to desire you to informe me howe I might attayne to so swéete a comfort as you haue. If my applyable paynes may ayde me to purchase it: I dowe no occasion whatsoeuer shall hinder me.

The Hoste desireth to know how he might lykewise become a Christian.

Zelauto.

I am right glad (quoth I) to heare that you haue so good a zeale & intent to the Christian faith, and my dilligence shall not want to countell you therein, but as of two extremities, the least is to be chosen, and of two euilles the wurst to be shunned: So holde I it best, that at this tyme we leaue to conferre of these matters, least that when we least of all thinke, the enimie come to subuert vs. At this tyme, if you please, let vs vse such delightfull talke (vsed with moderation:) as may well recreate vs: and no faulte be found therewith, yet think not (I desire you) but that I will satisfie your requests

Zelauto glad to heare the Hoste good zeale, yet desireth him to cease of that talke till some other more conuenient tyme.

in whatsoeuer you please, & you shall finde me to dw moze foz you, then now I minde to make pzotestatiõ of. So if you are well instructed, and I deuoyde of my peryll: you shall winne your whole wishing, and I purchase no displeasure. How say you fyz, are you contented to graunt to that I haue spoken?

Mannikyo Rigustello, the Hoste.

The Hoste is wel contented with the reply of Zelauto, & falleth with him into other talke.

In dede fyz, you say trueth. lyttle sayde is soone amended, and where the hedge is lowest, the beastes goe ouer soonest: therfoze we wyll ceasse this talke at this time, & reason thereof betweene our selues secretly. Therfoze tell me I pray you, what was the cause of your comming into this Countrey, being such a soyle, wherin they rather desire your death, then wish your well fare: and whether meane you from hence to trauayle?

Zelauto.

Zelauto telleth to the Hoste the cause why he went thus in trauaile.

Sir (quoth I) you knowe that a youthfull minde is styll ventrous, and desirous to see new sightes, and fashions euery day, wherefoze I being one moze addicted to pleasure then profite, and moze desirous of nouelties, then to continew styll in one song: hazarded my selfe to all chaunces, whatsoeuer, and hitherto I haue out stode them (I thanke God:) well inough. What shall followe I know not, what is passed hath bene sufficientlie discharged, but whether I trauayle from hence, is vtterly vnknowen, thus you knowe at large the cause of my trauayles.

Mica Sheffola the Nephewe of the Soldane came in here tho and heauy.

We had now sitten at supper not fully halfe an howre, but there came in one, a verie goodly Gentleman, who was Nephew to the *Soldane* of the Cittie, named *Mica Sheffola*, this Gentleman sate downe at the Table, and gaue a verie grieuous sigh, at length loking on me, the blod rose abundantly in his face, and the teares began to trickle downe his chekes. My Hostesse *Dania* seeing the pensiue plight of this Gentleman: ran to him, and tooke him about the necke saying. Alas! good fyz, what meaneth these mestiue motions? What harme is happened that makes you so heauy? Oz what cause procureth

The Hostes of the house taketh the

reth you to lament in this sort? O tell me good sweete syr, and if any helpe lyeth in me: credit me, I wyll do it to the verie vttermost of my power. Ah good *Dania* (quoth he) I knowe right well, if thou couldest remedy the matter thou wouldest do it wyllingly, but the case so standeth, that it is farre from thy power to pleasure me, or any that I knowe, that is able to do so much for me. Then looked he on me againe, and faine he would haue spoken, but yet he was halfe afrayde, which I seeing, and hearing him say, that a man might pleasure him in the cause of his so great sorrow, I sayd.

Gentleman about the necke to comfort him.

Gentleman, Arte and inuention of man hath framed for euery sore a salue, for euery malladie a medicine, & for euerie disease a cause or remedy for the same. Likewise God, as he hath framed the mouth: so hath he sent meate to sustayne the same withall, and as he sendeth sickneslle to man, so doth he send him health againe.

Zelauto seeing the great sadnesse of the Gentlemã speaketh vnto him.

Man of himselfe is plated among a multitude of myseries, sometime ready to fall into this euill, then into ỹ, yet is he not left desolate. As God sendeth him myserie: so sendeth he ioye againe, a whyle he scourgeth, and then he ceaseth, a whyle he lowreth, and then he laugheth.

Zelauto seeketh by many and sundrie examples to cause the Gẽtleman to leaue his great and sodayn sadnesse.

The Phisition first ministreth a sharpe Salue to searche the deapth of the disease, and then he the better and soner healeth his cure. The Prince a whyle frowneth vppon his Subiect, to declare his authoritie, and to make him to obey: but afterward he vseth his dealinges mercifully. The maister quickeneth vp the dull minde of the Scholler with sharpe wordes, and stripes of the rodde at the first: but afterward he loueth him, and maketh much of him.

He applyeth his former allegations to the Gẽtleman.

Euen so Sir it maybe, that some sodayne chaunce permitted by God hath happened, as to depriue you of some of your deerest frendes, or else that some vnlooked for mischaunce hath happened, which procureth your pensiuenesse, soweth you in sorrowes, and maketh you mone in such mesliue manner. If so it be, thinke not but he which hath sent this Crosse: is able to take it away againe, and that he which causeth you now to lament; wyll at length cause you to laugh.

He sheweth him howe his great lamenting doth but bring all his sences out of quiet.

Therefore neuer wrap your selfe in woes, nor waste your dayes in wayling: For that can but cause the vnquietnesse of the minde, distemperature of the body, and lykewise bereaue you of your sences. Pardon my presumption (Syr) I pray you, in that I seeme to meddle in this matter, which to me nothing pertaineth, and that I perturbe your patience with my friuolous talke. I doubt not but it is as well taken as it is meant by me and spoken, and as courteously construed, as my powre self pretended. I would be verie loth to haue any heauy, although I can procure them small pleasure, and I would be sorie to see one in sadnesse: if by my meanes I might mowe him to myrth.

He courteoullie offereth him self, to pleasure him by any means that lyeth in him to do.

Therefore Syr (although you be to me a straunger, and I haue no commission to examin you in this case, yet as a frend that wisheth you well, and would willingly, worke your well fare,) if you please to vnfolde the cause that molesteth your minde, and what you thinke is best remedy therfore: I promise you on my fidelitie, though it were to encounter with any enimie, to procure you a remedy: I would hazard it wyllingly. In signe and token wherof, that my deede shall make manifest my worde: I offer you the hand of a true and faithfull Christian.

Mica Sheffola the *Soldanes* Nephew replyeth to the courteous offer of Zelauto.

When the Gentleman had well pondered my tale, and beeing one (as I was informed by my Hostesse before) that I needed not to doubt of, because he was a good Christian him selfe, but he durst not be knowen therof: toke my hand and courteously kyssed it, and then began to say.

The Gentleman disseth Zelautoes hand, and then begin-

Syr, I am glad of your Christian company, but sorie for your beeing in so succorles a soyle, and although you be a straunger: yet to me the welcommest man alyue. I haue noted well your frendly talke, and wilbe I were able any way

to

to requite it, neuertheles you shall finde me moze your frēend then I entend to boast of, and I will awarde any extremitie, that may hēre sēeme to hurt you, in hope whē you haue heard it: you wyll dw your gwd will to helpe it.

neth frēndly to talke with him.

It is so syr (as your Hoste can credibly wytnesse) that I am Nephew to the *Soldane Neoreo*, who gouerneth this Cittie, and one, who with him am able to dw you a pleasure, but at this tyme, Foztune hath frowned so frowardly: that she hath dasht the cheefe of my desires in the dust. I haue a very gallant, godly and vertuous Gentlewoman to my Sister, who because of her Chzistian belēefe, and constant auouching of the same: is condempned by the Lawe, and to mozrowe shēe must lwse her life. Yet hath the *Soldane* thus much graunted, that if any one whatsoeuer, dare venture him selfe against a Champion by fozce of Armes to set her free: shēe shall vpon his gwd successe be restozed at lybertie. To take this case in hand I knowe no one dare be so bolde, there are many which wyllingly would: but that they doubt to be suspected thereby, my selfe dare wyllingly venture the cause: but that if I should conquere the enimie, myne Uncle the *Soldane* would cōspire my death by some meanes, so that sēeing no way to adiuuate this extremitie, I am fully perswaded shēe shall dye the death. And to request you hērein, I willingly would not, foz that I know it were the losse of your life: which (on my Chzistian fidelytie) I would be lothe to heare of, much lesse to be the pzocurer thereof Wherfoze (gwd syr) tell me the best councell you can, what may be done in this doubtfull matter?

The Gētleman openeth the cause of his sadnesse to Zelauco.

His syster foz her christian belēefe appointed to death.

Moze of her frēends but foz feare of suspition dare vēture to stand in her quarel.

Zelauto.

So I hauing heard the Gentlemans sozrowfull tale, and considered the distressed case of that famous and wozthy Lady: thought, that if I lost my lyfe in defence of my faith, my Captayne Chzist would purchase me the greater reward. Again, if the Lady were so constant, to abyde such mercilesse tozmentes as her owne kyndzed, and the residue of her enimies would wyllingly lay vpon her, and all foz the zealous Chzistianitie which remayned in her vertuous bzest: I should deseruedly reape a great repzoche, if I could and would not

Zelauto deuiseth what were best to be done in this doubtfull case.

Zelauto thinketh it a great shame foz

ener vnto him, if he should not apply his paynes to set the Lady free.

seeke to mittigate her miseries. Therefore wholy committing the cause to Gods omnipotencie, and not accoumpting of my life, to set forth his glorie: I enterprised the matter courragiously, in allured hope to foyle the enimie. And if that afterwarde my death by any meanes should be conspired: I would referre all to the wyll of the almightie, for that death were vnto me aduantage, and life nothing meritorious. The learned say: *Cui comes virtus non est, is animo facile cadit a fortuna percussus.* The minde therefore adorned with vertue: wyll neuer be timerous of that which shall rayse his eternall honour, for after death is the glory of a mans preter dayes wytnessed, as it is rightly sayde: *Vivit post funera Virtus*, and euen so I encouraged, through the good hope I had sustayned: I made no accoumpt of this miserable mortality, but addressed my selfe to set the Lady at lybertie, and so turning to the Gentleman, I sayd.

Summa virtutis Potestas est.

Mors non est formidanda.

Syr, as I am wylling to worke your welfare. So am I doubtfull of my destruction, and as I may pleasure you to your perpetuall profite: so may I hinder my selfe to my helpelesse harmes: You say your selfe, the aduenture is so aduerse: that on bothe sides it bringeth death, though the Lady enioye her lybertie: the Conquerer must abyde captiue, therefore neither can the Lady like her delyuerie: nor her Champion his harde choyse.

Zelauto replyeth to ye demaũd of the Gnetleman.

Againe, if I (beeing a Christian) should cõceiue so good a courage, as to venture on my baliancy, to redresse her emminent mylerie: I doubt leaft a farder inconuenience might be to her alotted, and to me a death, that (albeit dying) should styll lyue, this is to be doubted, and if it might be possible, worthy to be preuented. But nowe Syr to assure your selfe, what a Christian courage can comprehend, & to satisfie the sorrowes, that you and your freendes haue sustayned, thus much (more for your freendly fauor, then any gaine I hope for, yea and more for the good lyking that I haue conceyued, then for any ryches wherewith you are able to reward me) I dare hazard my selfe to defend your Syster, and stand to the peryll that my presumption may procure me. Wherefore if it shall please you,

to

to prouide me of such néedefull necessaries, as such a matter may amount vnto, and you and she together to pray for the prosperitie, which God in this fight is able to lend me: I will aduenture, not doubting of good successe.

When the Gentleman had heard the fréendly offer which I made him, and vppon so small acquaintaunce, I would do so much for him: he imbraced me, and sayde vnto me in this order.

Worthy Sir, neyther know I how to gratifie so gentle a gift: nor how to remember you with a iust reward, for that abyllitie wanteth to performe the one: but good will is ready to discharge the other. Howe am I bound in dutie to your singuler humanitie, that more regarded the solytarie state of my Sister: then the prosperitie of your worthy selfe? If the wordes of a Turke, may so perfectly pierce your heart with pittie: how much more is a Christian able to obtayne of you? and if the dyrefull distresse of a Heathen Lady, can cause your Christian courage so to aduenture? How are your famous Matrones bound to vaunt of so valiaunt a Champion? Yet muse I, how biéing a Christian you durst make your selfe manifest to me, not deeming any doubtfull dealing, nor thinking any forgerie to remayne in me, but that your God gaue you grace, to know your friendes from your foes, and a dissembler from a direct dealer. It may be (I boast of my selfe) more then besemeth me, and crake with a countenance, not of any constancie, and it may be, you thinke me so vaine glorious a vaunter, or some fantasticall fellow, that dwelling among naughtie neyghbours, who conceale my commendation: I play the Parasite with mine owne mouth to extoll my selfe.

I knowe not, thought is frée to euerie one, and euerie man may conceyue according to his minde. I haue not the rayne to rule your reason, nor the lybertie to let your tongue from speaking, fewe wordes among fréendes (they say) is fittest, and lyttle sayd is soone amended, I can not discouer what I déeme you deserue: Nor I minde not to mencion what mendes I wyll make you: If you proue so fortunate, as to succour my Sister, and your God haue so agréed that you

Mica Shefsola rendreth vnto Zelauto great thankes for his so large & courteous proffer.

He museth howe hée durst make him selfe knowen.

He yéeldeth the iudgemēt of his wordes passed to the courteous construing of Zelauto.

He giueth to Zelauto his hand to be a Christian, and with him to taste of any troubles.

shall be victor: It shall be verie hard but I will reskew you from their rigor, and my selfe take part of your paynes whatsoeuer. And heere in token, my woords shall turne into deedes, I giue you the hande of a Turke, chaunged to a Christian, With you to lyue and lacke, with you to be true and trusty, *Vsque ad mortem.*

Zelauto desireth him in the morning to bring his armor, and he wyll discharge his promise.

Syr (quoth I) neyther do my deedes deserue halfe the good report you haue vttered, nor my simple self woorthy to weare such commendation. But as the Boyer beeing touched, followeth so farre as it can: so I beeing praised, presume as farre as honesty may holde me. What I haue promised, I purpose to performe, and what you haue offered, I shall still accoumpt of: in the morning let be brought such defence as shall serue the turne: and I am heere your Champion ready to the Combat.

The Hoste rendreth thankes to Zelauto.

Our Hoste hauing sitten all this whyle, and heard what woords had passed betweene vs: right ioyfull that I would aduenture for the Lady, sayd thus. Now surely Gentleman, were the vttermost of my abilytie, able to aunswer your singuler courtesie, or any action (whatsoeuer) I your poore freend could performe: you should not finde me so forward to vtter the same, as I would be in the verifying thereof, but in token that I would discharge what heere I haue spoken: I, and all mine resteth at your commaundement. Then turned he to the Gentleman saying. And you Syr (for your part) haue good occasion to thinke your comming fortunate, and your time not yll bestowed: when you finde a freend so ready to graunt your request. I should thinke you verie much discourteous, and that small humanity harbored in you, if you should seeme to be obliuious of so courteous an offer: but I knowe your wisdome wyll way the matter so wisely: that my simple selfe neede not to make mention thereof, yet as one that wisheth your good credite should be blased by your good deedes: and that so noble a Gentleman should not be lightly remembred: I was so bolde to interrupt your patienee with my friuolous talke, and to occupie the tyme, better then to stande yole.

The Hoste speaketh to Mica Sheffola.

With

With that, my Hostesse *Dania*, courteouslie kyssing my hand, beganne to say as followeth. Worthy Syr, neyther would I wishe you to surmyse my wordes spoken of flatterie: nor that you should suppose I speake otherwise then my minde serueth me, neyther you noble *Sheffola* to misconster my meaning; but to accept as my talke shall giue occasion. First, the outward apparaunce of this gallant Gentlemans humanitie: maketh ample discouerie of true nobillitie.

The Hostesse speaketh to Zelauto, & to Mica Sheffola.

Next, the hauty courage that consisteth in his valiaunt brest: argueth that his Parentes are of hye degree, for we all beeing straungers, and you most of all: his seemely selfe to take vppon him to discharge so great a taske, as the losse of his owne lyfe to succour your Syster: me thinkes you are vnable to counteruayle his courtesie, who forceth not his lyfe to defend Christianitie. Therefore Syr, for euer commaund me and mine, farder then now I meane to make mencion of.

The Hostesse her great good wyll to Zelauto.

My freendes (quoth I) your good wyll I see is great, and your affection so feruent: that you imbolden me to perfourme that which I haue made vaunt of, wherefore you Syr, may depart when you please, and fayle not to send such thinges as are needefull, and that verie timely in the morning.

Zelauto thanketh his Hoste and Hostes for theyr good opinion.

Syr (quoth he) your minde shall be fulfylled, to the vttermost that you haue required, and nowe wyll I goe to the prison to my solytarie Syster, to comfort those cares that this harde happe procureth, so shall I dryue her from doubt, and procure her to prayer, that her Champion may proue so valiaunt, as to vanquishe her enimies. In the meane tyme I committe you Syr, to your God, who I pray to strengthen you in your attempt, and so mine Hoste and Hostesse bothe fare well.

Mica Sheffola departeth from Zelauto and goeth to the prisō to his syster.

The Gentleman beeing thus departed, and the howre of rest approching: I entred with mine Hoste into a Chamber, secretly betweene our selnes, and there exhorted him in the best manner I could, so that my dillygent labour bestowed: brought him to a good beleefe, and that he was fully pretended to lyue and dye in the good counsayle I gaue him.

Zelauto cōfirmeth the Hoste in ye Christian fayth.

Well, all that night, I went not to bedde, but on my knées with heaued handes, made my petitions to my God almightie, to shélde me safe from the tyrannie of my mortall enimies.

Mica Shefsfola returneth in the morning, with the Armour for Zelauto.

In the morning, the Gentleman returned agayne, and brought with him a verie gallant Courser, a coate of Complet Armour, a Shélde, and other necessaries. When he was entred my Chamber, verie courteouslie, he sayd. Albeit (worthy Syr) I can not comprehend my long expectation in all poyntes, but that I fayle in the fulfilling some part thereof: I doubt not but you wyll respect the breuitie of the tyme, and allowe a reasonable excuse, containing nothing but trueth. And though this furniture is not so fyt as I would it were, nor my entraunce so honestly discharged, as it might haue béene: I hope you wyll déeme the one as farre as might could maintayne it, and accoumpt the other but for want of good manners: neuertheleſſe, if you beare with my boldnesse on this behalfe, perchaunce it may be hereafter a sufficient warrenting.

He sheweth the great courage of his Sister to the death.

Fyrst Sir, yester night after I departed, I went to the prison to sée my Sister, whom I foũd nothing fainting, though fears were so nye: nor in ought to dismay at the terror of death, but rather reioycing, that her race was so néere run, and to leaue mortality for eternal felicity, saying vnto me. O brother, neither indeſt your minde with any mazednes, nor subdue your selfe with any sorrowes for I goe to glorie, leauing you heere in a world of myserie, wherefore I would the howre were at hande to translate this Tragedie: then should I haue my wishe, and they suffice them with tyrannie. Yet since it can not be so soone as I would, but perforce I shall stay tyll their lymitted leysure: I request you release your selfe of all doubt whatsoeuer, and arme your selfs to abide the brunts of all their diuelliſhe deuises. Therefore prepare your selfe manfully, to taste of their tyrannie, call all your care on Christianitie: and the true God shall defend ye.

Mica Shefsfola hea-

When I beheld my Syster, thaunged from fears to courage, from mourning to myrth, and from pensiuenes to perfect

fect gladneſſe: What ioy I conceyued, is not nowe to be ſpoken of, for the wyllingneſſe that ſhe had to the death, cauſed me perfectly to beléeue, that their exceſſiue tormentes ſhould not any and attaynt her: but that in the fulneſſe of her fayth, ſhe would withſtand their practiſes whatſoeuer, and then I ſayd vnto her. Déere Syſter, as I am right ioyfull of this your Chriſtianlike courage: ſo wiſhe I you may remaine vnto the ende, but thus much comfort is ſent you, & thus much good hope to harten you: that there is a Chriſtian Champion in this Cittie, wyll aduenture lym and life in defence of your conſtancie, and thus much he hath wylled me to tell you, that this night you muſt paſſe in prayers, for his ſafe ſucceſſe. Wherfore keepe this ſecrete to your ſelfe, for it is vnknowen to any, and leaſt I ſhould be in ought ſuſpected: I wyll byd you adiew good Syſter. With that the Jaylor came to attend our talke: and I ſéeing that departed. Then went I in to the *Soldanes* Armorie, and from thence brought the beſt defence I could finde, & héere is mine owne Sheeld, Launce and Courſer: which I doubt not but wyll like you well.

ring the ioyful words of his Syſter reioyced.

The words he ſpake to his Siſter.

¶ *Zelauto* hearing the diſcourſe paſſed by *Mica Sheffola*, and hauing finiſhed his Oriſons: vnto him verie courteouſlie replyeth in this manner.

Zelauto after Mica Sheffola had ended his diſcourſe: ſeyth vnto him.

SIr, the good wyll I wiſhe you, and the dutifull courteſie I am ready to offer you, I truſt ſhall ſuffice for to byd you good morrowe. These weapons which you haue brought, and this Armour héere preſent: ſhall (through the aſſiſtaunce of my God) eyther ſet at libertie your godly Siſter: or be bathed with my blood in the open féelde, for this I wyll aſſure you, and without vaunt be it ſpoken: I neuer in all my life went about any thing ſo wyllingly, as I nowe goe to the Combate for my conſcience, & were he as great as *Goliah*,

— Zelauto is armed with so good a courage, that her doubteth not but to spede well.

as stoute as *Sampson*, and as monstrous as the *Minotaure*: I wyll be so bolde as bestowe a fewe blowes, not doubting but they shall be indifferently delyuered, and that the *Soldane* him selfe shall say, he that wyll buye her better then I: is worthy to haue her when he hath done.

And if afterwarde, by trayterous treason, he seeke to bereaue my life: yet shall he knowe, that no man deserueth it better then I. But I pray you (quoth I) do you know the other Champion against whome I must wage battayle: is he any man of accoumpt, or of such estimation, as to fight in this quarrell taken in hand?

Terolfo the Soldanes son, is he that must fyght against Zelauto.

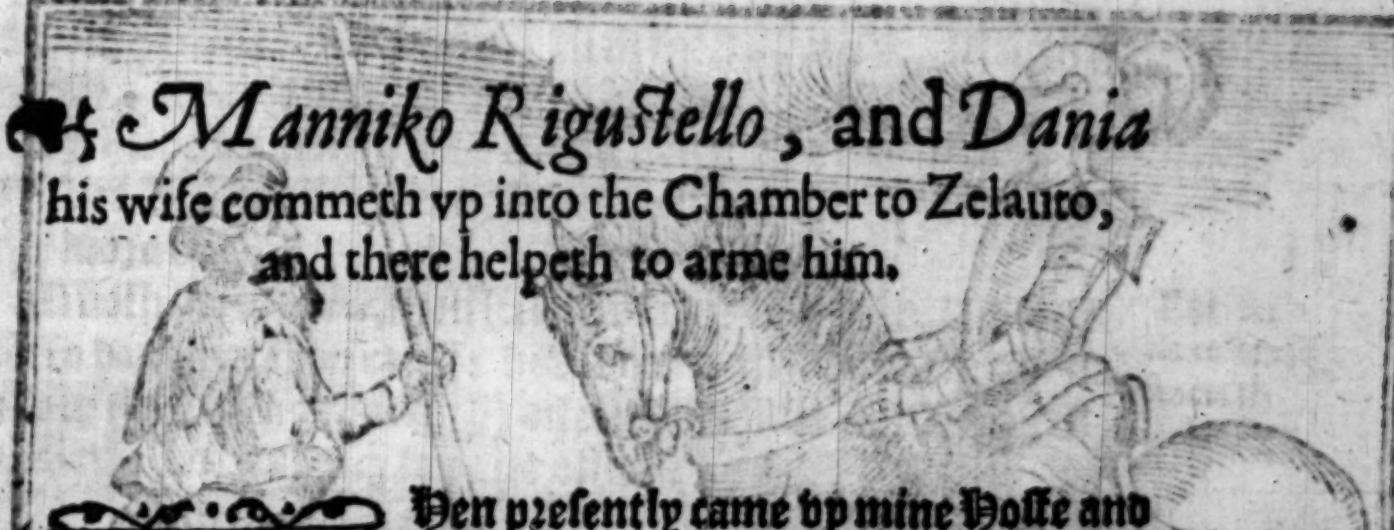
He aunswered me, that it was the *Soldanes* Sonne, named *Terolfo*, a man of synguler courage, and one that had aduentured verie worthily in his tyme, bothe by Sea and Land, in verie great affayres.

Mary all the better (quoth I) the more noble the man is: the more famous wyll the fight be, and ryght glad I am that it is the *Soldanes* Sonne: for then if I dye, I dye at the hands of a valiaunt Champion. And about what time thinke you (quoth I) that it wyll be when she shall be conducted forth to death?

Zelauto demaundeth at what tyme the Lady must suffer death

Yes (quoth he) verie early, because they are verie wylling to dispatche her, least any other should seeme to take opinion of her fayth, and it wyll not be long nowe, for the Officers were gone to the prison to make her ready, and the Trumpet soundeth on the Castle, for any Champion that wyll come, the Stake is made ready to burne her at, and wood, and all thinges ready brought. The *Soldane* him selfe, and all his Lordes are ready, wherefore I knowe it wyll not be long hence nowe.

Well (sayd I) the time is welcome, whensoeuer it commeth, and if it shall please you to helpe to arme me; it shall not be long before I am ready to.



Manniko Rigustello, and Dania his wife commeth vp into the Chamber to Zelauto, and there helpeth to arme him.

THen presently came vp mine Hoste and his Wife, who after they had courteously saluted me: they and the Gentleman, helped to arme me. After I was ready, I heard a great noyse of Trumpettes. Syr (quoth the Gentleman) nowe commeth this sorrowfull sight, here commeth the sælly Lambe lead vnto her slaughter. I lowked out, and there came the *Soldane* and his Lordes, before him a great garde of Armed men, some on horsebacke, some on foote, and next before the *Soldane*, rode one on a verie gallant Stæde, a valiaunt and comly Champion.

The Hoste & his wife cõmeth vp to Zelauto.

The order howe the Lady was lead vnto her death.

After the *Soldane* and his Lordes, came the innocent Lady, in a fayre whyte Roabe downe to the ground, about her were the Tormenters, that should payne her to death, then after them a company of auncient Matrones all in blacke, to mourne the Ladyes death, and after them came all the braue Ladyes and Gentlewomen of the Cittie, all to see the execution of this poore innocent.

All these being past, the Gentleman tooke his leaue of me tyll I came to the place; whyche was not farre of. Within a whyle I lystened, and heard the Trumpette sounde verie shrylle, then it stayed, and sounded the second tyme, vp came mine Hoste and sayde. Syr nowe it is tyme, hye you quickly or elle neuer.

The departure of Mica Shefola.

I got

The coming of Zelauto to the place to fight for the Lady.

I got vp on Horsebacke, and by that tyme I was come out of the doores, the Trumpet sounded againe. Then rode I with all the possyble spede I might, tyll I came to the place, and when the *Soldane* and all his company sawe a defendour come in such haste: they were all abashed. There was great enquirie what I should be, and from whence I came, the brave Ladyes and Damoselles, they were exceding joyfull, and when I was entred the myddest, I saluted the *Soldane* as well as I could, and lykewise the Champion, then made I obeysaunce to all the company beside, who thronged neere to heare what I would say, and then began I to frame my talke this order.

The wordes of Zelauto.

Right worthy *Soldane*, and you also noble Lordes, by the verdict

verdict of your wisedomes, shall lycence mée to yéelde to lybertie, what I haue to saye, and be not offensiue at any thing héere spoken: I shall thinke you shewe mée nothing but Iustice and equitie, and then I shall accoumpt your Fame the moze woꝛthy. Zelauto to the Soldane.

Quoth the *Soldane*, thou hast frée leaue to speake, and lybertie to dw what thou canst: but what wyll follow we can not assure thée. Why (quoth I) offering no iniurie to any person pzesent, noꝛ wishing to be no otherwise dealt with all, then my déedes deserue: I truste you shall finde no occasion of any offence, but that what I say, may be well boꝛne with all. Well (quoth the *Soldane*) if all be well, it is the better foꝛ thée: if any thing yll, stand to your owne aduenture. The Soldane answereth Zelauto.

Zelauto beeing come to the place where he must defend the Ladyes cause, who stoode there before him ready bound to a stake, and hauing talked with the Soldane, as touching pardon for his bolde attempt: thus beginneth to make his Oration, in the presence of them all.

After I had well ponꝛed the sharpe reply of the *Soldane*, and that since I was entred beforе them all, it behoued me to set a good face on the matter, & not dismay my self with any of their diuelish dealinges: neyther estéeming the furie of the *Soldane*, noꝛ craning the courtesie of any his companions; aduaunced my selfe foꝛwarde, and sayd. Zelauto nowe setteth a good face on the matter, not fearing the Soldane.

Since neyther pꝛomise may be pꝛoffered to purchase my pardon, noꝛ licence foꝛ that I shall yeeld vnto lybertie: neither dismaying thꝛough doubt of your dealing, noꝛ fearing the cheefest foꝛce of your furie, I pꝛonounce in pꝛesence what my minde giues occasion: and wyll mayntaine the same with the losse of my life.

Zelauto his Oratiō.

Beholde (inuincible *Soldane*) you noble Lords (and you renowned Patrones) a man, bothe dead and a lyue, a lyue to aduaunce the cause of this Lady: and dead (in that my victory) returneth losse of my lyfe. But yet remembring life is vncertayne, & death is so that each man may make accoumpt thereof: I nought esteeme the likelyhood of my life, but arme my selfe, as one willing to the death.

Yet by perfect proofe we see, that the tallest Tree, abydes many a bitter blaste, the bravest Bulwarke, by force is battered, the hautiest Hart, subiect to a fall, and the proudest person (at last) maketh his Tabben of clay: euen so your potencie may sone be peruerted, and the vttermost of your tyranny, cleane disapoynted. See here the guyltlesse domed to death, see here the lewdest suffered to lyue, beholde where trueth is turnde out of all, see here where falsehood boasteth in his bravarie.

But since rashnesse in speeche maketh me run too farre: the knowledge of my selfe calleth me backe againe, I confesse it is not my part to disalowe of your dealings, nor to contemne the principalitie, which now you professe: yet may I reprehend the abused authority, ruled by rigor and not by indifferencie. You will say, that Princes are not to professe partialitie, and that the Subiect should not meddle in the swaying of his dignitie: yet ought the Prince to deale vprightly, and not to pinche that partie, that auoucheth most loyalty and dutifull loyaltie. Admit that the Prince may so farre ouer run him selfe, that by ambicious heades, double dealers, and priuie enemies, he condempneth the man, that most doth honour him: yet is not his death to be prosecuted so hastily: but to be considered of with wisdome and discretion.

This Lady for example, no straunger, but of your owne blood, and no enimie to your Maiestie: but rather one that wisheth you inestimable dignitie, she by you is condempned, for wishing you well, & shee committed to this mortall death: that seeketh to saue you from eternall death. What heart so hard, can commit such crueltie: and what beast so brutishe, but dealeth more naturally. If to your owne blood, you will deale

by

so tyrannically: how will you deale with me poore wretch of so meane estimation? Me thinketh that though the extremity you vse to the vttermost: Nature yet should moue with an inward affectiō, and though that iustly she deserued the death: yet should naturall kindnesse procure you to pittie. Also amōg so many gallant youthes, none so ventrous to defend her cause, nor none so inflamed with affection, as to mittigate her myserie. Me thinke noble Ladyes, that some one of you ought to haue stode her defender: if no man had the courage to hazard his lyfe. Admit that the estate of your Coūtrey consisted on this Ladyes well fare: would you seeme so slouthfull, as to suffer your whole Countrey to perishe, rather then to make apparaunce of your manhod:

King *Codrus* beeing aduertised by the Oracle, that except he were slayne: his people should not vanquishe their enimies: armed him selfe lyke a Soldier, placing him selfe in the foreffront of the armie, and there by his death, set all his people at quietnesse. Beholde what great affection was in this noble Prince, who more esteemed the sauegard and happy societie of his people: then his owne life.

Codrus yelded him selfe to dye for the sauegard of his people.

Aglaurus, to shun the emminent daunger ỹ was like to fall vpō Athens, seeing his death only might set it at liberty: threw him selfe headlong from the walles of Athens, and so ended the strife, where else it should haue bene conquered. But now attend you noble Ladyes, and you modest Matrones: let the excellent example of *Iphigenia* cause you to remember what care you ought to haue in the preuenting of such daungers as may happen, and by some one of you may be easily escaped.

Aglaurus by throwing himself from the walles of Athens, redeemed his Countrey.

Shee (I say) seeing that her death would appease the rigor of her enimies, yelded her selfe to be sacrificed. Oh admirable vertue, oh singuler constancie, her matche as rare to finde in these partes: as to see golden Goates to feede on greene mountaynes, yet wish I that all Women would prosecute her rare rule of life, and that some one *Iphigenia* among you, would hazard your hap to set free this Lady.

Iphigenia, yelded her selfe to be sacrificed.

But least in wishing you to be warriours, I should seeme to shroude my selfe, and that you should thinke I come to

prate, rather then to put my puissance in practise: I wyll cease to trouble you with ouermuch talke, & vtter the cause wherfore I come. First, I come to sue and intreate, if I may haue good successe, which is, that you would spare the life of this famous Lady; and not cut of her dayes in her gallantest prime, that you would remember the race shée is discended of: and worke no wurse to her, then you would to your owne selues. Nert, if your Lawes be so extreme ỳ they may not spare punishment, and eke you your selues so wilfull, that you must nédes worke her wrack: I thinke it sufficient that you put her in eryle, with erpresse charge in payne of death neuer to returne: so may your rigor be verie well asswaged, & shée for her paines indifferently penaunced. Thus in your Land shall you euer héereafter be magnified: and all people wyll laude your Princely dealinges. And lastly, if neyther of these petitions may seeme to take place, but ỳ you must nédes execute the vttermost of your crueltie: Héere am I by force of Armes to defend her quarrell, and against this your Champion will liue and dye in her defence. This is the cause of my comming, and this the dutie I haue to discharge.

The Soldane stroken into a great quandarie.

With that the *Soldane* began to loke on his Lords, and they on him, the Ladyes & all that were present, was stroken into a great maze, some for ioy clapped their handes, and some on the other side began to wéepe: the poore distressed Lady stode all this whyle bound to the stake, and the Tormentors ready to make the fire. At last the Champion began to come néerer vnto me: and the *Soldane* hauing taken good aduisement of my wordes, sayd as followeth.

The *Soldane* after he had well pondred the passed tale of Zelauto: made his reply in this order, as followeth.

The Soldane repliyeth to Zelauto.

Sir, as we haue well aduised our selues of your wordes: so are we to giue aunswere, as wée shall thinke best, and as your talke séemeth to giue occasion. We are not to condempne you for

for that you haue ſpoken: nor yet to commend you, leaſt you ſhould receyue a priuate pride in your ſelfe, alſo your manhod we are not to repraue, nor yet of your qualities we are not to accoumpt: although bothe of them in you haue made a ſeemely ſhewe, but as your manhod may miſſe, when you thinke moſt ſureſt: ſo may your qualities be ſo craftie, as at laſt may deceyue your ſelfe. And where you haue alleaged, that naturall affectiō ſhould worke in vs, eſpecially towards them of our owne Parentage: I aunſwere, that were ſhee mine owne Childe, making an offence: ſhee is worthy to be beaten, and ſo ſhee, altring from all her frends, kinſfolke and faith: in our iudgementes ſhee is worthy to taſte the ſharpeſt torments. Farder, you ſayd that ſhee doth it as an example in wiſhing our weale; we aunſwere, That they which ſpeak vs fayre and loue vs not: We will ſpeake them as fayre, and truſt them not, and ſhee that would take no warning when ſhee might, nowe if ſhee would, we will not accept of it. But belyke you are of the ſame opinion your ſelfe: and that makes you beare ſo much with her in that reſpect, if you be, thoſe pen the ſpurſe will be your owne in the ende.

To rip vp the whole eſtate of your talke it were needleſſe, and to trifle the time we do not intend, our aunſwer is this, neyther pittie ſhall procure vs to conſider of her cauſe, nor eryle ſhall be graunted, to her for her offence: but only the death whereto ſhee is adiudged. Now win her and weare her, ſhelve the beſt of thy manhod: but take heede of the ende.

When I percepued the *Soldane* ſo fully bent, to bathe his handes in her guyltleſſe blood, and that nothing but her death might ſeeme to ſuffice him: I went to the Lady, and thus I baſed my talke. Lady, neyther can I warrant you lyfe: or my ſelfe able to vanquiſhe your enimie, but hold euer if he of the death I do aſſure my ſelfe, wherfore neither faint with feare, nor forgette your faith, but as you ſeeme to be conſtant vnto the death: ſo frame your petitions, the better ſhall I ſpeede. If I redeeme you, it is the cheefeſt of my deſire: if I dye my ſelfe, God will receyue my ſoule. Thus neyther truſting to the one, more then the other: or more accoumpting of lyfe,

Zelauro talketh to the Lady bound to the ſtake.

then I dw of death: I enter the fæld to fortifie your faith, and hazard my hap, as shall please God to spæde me.

The Lady repyeth to Zelauto.

With that the Lady (whose comely and swæte countenaunce me thinkes I yet beholde) made aunswer vnto me as hære I shall tell you. Most noble Syr, I may thinke my selfe happy to haue so good a Champion: and coumpt the fælde wonne, how euer it spæde: if you foyle my enemie, I haue that I woke for, yet if you dye your selfe: my state is farre worse then it was before, rather had I to abyde the brunt, and you to shælde your selfe: then to ende two bodies lyues, where one may suffise, so shall the enemie gorge him selfe with my blod: & your god wyll be neuertheless estæmed of. Therefore good Syr, content you, and escape hence if you can, for I am prepared to abide what it shall please them to lay on me.

Zelauto speaketh againe to the Lady.

Nowe credit me Syr, these her wordes dyd so greatly encourage me: that had it bæne against Men and Monsters, yea, the furious fændes, I would haue ventured what euer had betyde me: So then I sayd vnto her. No Lady, what I haue promised, shall be presently performed, they shall not say, that a Christian will eate his worde: but that he dare venture against the proudest of them. And so fare well good Lady, for hære goes your worthy knight, who before hæ returneth, wyll eyther subdue thy enimie: or lose his lyfe in the fælde.

Perolfo the Soldanes sonne speaketh to Zelauto.

When the Champion sawe I was returned: he came vnto me saying. Syr, as you are a knight at Armes, and hære profesle the same: so nowe according to the order and custome of the Lawe, I am to desire your name.

Zelauto his repye.

Trueth Syr (quoth I) and of my name I am not ashamed, my name is *Zelauto*, and I come to maintaine the cause of this Lady. Nowe am I to requeste as much of you.

Perolfo his reply.

Syr (quoth he) my name is *Perolfo*; I am sonne to the *Soldane*; and hære am chalenger, on the behalfe of my Father. I trust you wyll pardon what shall passe betwæne vs hære in this place.

With

With all my heart (quoth I) and I am not in doubt, but you will dw the like, for if I am ordayned to dye in this place: I franke and frely forgiue him that doth the dede, so it be but one man.

Zelauto forgiueth Terolfo.

And if you Syr (quoth he) are the man to dispatch my dayes: with all my heart I forgiue you my death.

Terolfo forgiueth Zelauto.

Then were the Coursers sent abroade to make rome, the men appoynted to iudge the fyght, euerie thing in order appoynted, that belongeth to the matter, we went about, he fetching his course one way, and I an other, and so we began a fierce and terrible fight.

Then began a valiant and fierce Combat, betweene Zelauto, and the Soldanes sonne Terolfo, which was so excellently well handled on bothe sides: that it was doubtfull to whome the victorie should fall, but yet at the last, after many fierce assaults, Zelauto kylleth him in the open feeld, and so redeemed the Lady from death, and what happened to him afterward.

WE endured so long in daungerous and doubtfull fight, that he had small hope to vaunt of any victorie, or I any likelyhood to boast of the bargaine, but credite me, he for his part verie valiantly behaued him selfe, and deserued rightly to be well estéemed of, for neyther any feare could inforce him to faynt: nor wearinesse of warre cause him leaue of, but stoutly and couragiously, behaued him selfe manfully.

Zelauto killeth Terolfo in fight.

At last, it was my fortune to strike the stroke that dispatched him, the which was as great a grefe vnto me: as to any of his familiar frendes, for gladly would I haue conquered him, & saued his lyfe: but not bothe vanquish him, and bereaue his life. But as you know your selfe, a man in such assayes, dealeth as best he can, for the sauegarde of him selfe, is his chéefest desire: euen so I was warie least the lot should haue lyghted on me, and so valiantly slew him before his father and all his frendes.

The Ladyes and common people reioyce at the victorie of Zelauto.

But to see what leaping, what clapping of handes, what throwing vp of Cappes, and what great ioy was made of the Ladyes and the common people, would haue reioyced you to heare. Then was the Lady let lose, and I commaunded to come before the *Soldane*, who was not before so willing to the death of the Lady: as he was now sorrowfull for the yll successe of his sonne.

When I was come before him, he sayd, We confesse (Syr Knight)

knight) that you haue doue the déede manfully; and that you are worthy a greater rewarde, then héere you are lyke to gayne: but yet since you haue bereaued my Sonne of life, we must therefore deale the more hardly with you. And as the reward you must haue for your victorie, is death; euen so we wyll you to take it patiently, and not to striue, least farder harme do arise vnto you.

The wordes of the Soldane to Zelauto.

If you had saued the life of my sonne: we could then haue permitted more pittie, then nowe we can, or if you had wounded him, yet that he might haue lyued: your fréedome had béene sooner bought, where now all the ritches of India is not able to do it. Your selfe was not altogether ignoraunt before, how that the redéeming of her life: was the death of the partie whatsoeuer, and we informed you, that in such sort you might behaue your self, as no man should molest you, you haue now dealt so with vs, that no fréendship may be found: and beside, your Christianitie doth vtterly condempne you. Yet wyll we somewhat vse you honestly in the matter; you shall not presently séele the terror of your paine: but for the space of fowre dayes, lyfe shall be graunted you, in which tyme, dispose your selfe to dye, for there is no other meanes cā be made for you. Thus do we not deale with you as sharply as we might: nor vse you otherwise then the Lawe was appointed, she hath her life, let her goe where she please: and you your death, which we are sorie for, yet can not it be holpen.

When I had well aduised my selfe of this sharpe sentence: and that no remedy there was, but Lawe must procéede, then looking on all sides, and beholding the trickling teares of the modest Matrones, the Ladyes and Gentlewomen all to lament for me, the common people also vsing such pittifull cryes, that it gréeued thē infierly to heare such wofull newes: taking heart couragiously, and dreading no myserie, but trusted in my Christe assuredlie: and thus I aunswered the *Soldane*.

Renowned *Soldane*, if neyther the valure of the déede that is done, nor the mesiue moues of these sorrowfull mourners, is of sufficiencie to procure me your pittie, but that I

The wordes of Zelauto to the Soldane.

must nedes abide the death, and there is no remedie: then beholde me as wylling to the losse of my lyfe, as I was dilligent to discharge the Ladyes distresse. It is not my lyfe that I do accoumpt of, nor yet my death that wyll returne your aduauntage: This Ladyes well fare is all my desire, and my dying for her, to cause you two, be no more iniurie to her.

But since the death of your Sonne is the cause of your choller, and that if he had lyued, the better might haue beene my happe: I trust you are not ignorant what belongeth to the Lawe of Armes, and what passeth betweene vs in fight ought to be pardoned. I was as vnsure of my lyfe as he, and I was as hopefull of victorie as he: If then bothe parties do their dilligence as beseemeth them, what harme eyther of them sustayne is not to be accoumpted of. Therfore if for his death you deale with me extremely: I must nedes say you vse extremitie, and no Lawe or Justice.

And for the fowre dayes of respyte you haue graunted, I am to thanke you, for that it is more of your clemencie: then of my simple deseruing, yet in the meane tyme I accoumpt my selfe but a dead man, for that your dome is passed, albeit Lawe is to execute.

Zelauto giueth his fare well to all the Ladyes and Gentlewomen.

Wherefore, you noble Ladyes, you vertuous Damoselles, and you deere Lady, in whose defence my death is obtayned, from my heart I bid you all farewell, wishing as wel to your sweete selues, as to mine owne poore heart, and if my tyme had not beene cut of so soone as nowe it is: you should haue seene that which now I am not able to vnfolde. In your causes I lyue and dye, and for your sakes I haue thus much attempted, therefore to you all I bid farewell. And to you all in generall, whose wylles I see should not want to worke my well fare, I would my abilytie were as sufficient to pleasure you: as I would be wylling with my paynes to profite you.

Zelauto & his Hoste were lead to prison.

Then the *Soldane* and all his trayne departed, and I was conducted with a dozen Officers, with their Halberds to my lodging, where when I was vnarmed: bothe mine Hoste and I were lead to the prison, such a multitude of people following

ing vs, and such good report euerie one gaue me: that credite me, I went as wylling to the prison, as to my lodging.

At the prison gate I saw *Mica Sheffola* (the Ladyes Brother, for whome I aduentured) awayting my comming, who had prouided for me, the best and pleasauntest Chamber in the prison, and got me the lybertie of the Garden, to walke at my pleasure, and at last rounded me in the eare saying. God Syr, feare no daunger, for God and I will hence delyuer you, but I am sorie for your Hoste, because he is already apprehended vnto the *Soldane*, and his Maiestie tolde vnto me euen now when I departed from him: that to morrowe he shall be executed before the prison. I dare tarie no longer for feare of béeing suspected, I haue prouided all thinges for you héere, & to morrowe I will come againe, about the howre he must dye.

Mica Sheffola awaytéd for Zelauto at the prison.

The Hoste apprehended & must dye.

Alas me thought these were farre wurser newes, then the other, I could not speake to mine Hoste, because he was haled and pulled in so violently, and layde in a déepe dungeon by himself, and clogged with so many Irons, as he could possibly beare.

The Hostelle commeth to the prison to Zelauto.

Well, in the after none, my Hostelle *Dania* came to speake with her Husbande, but could not, then came shée vp to me, informing me of all that *Mica Sheffola* had tolde me. I demaunded of her, how he was knowen? She aunswered, that for the wordes hée vsed in my cause, & other suspicious talke. Well (quoth I) you were not best to tarie héere long, least you be suspected likewise. No Syr (quoth shée) I wyll byd you fare well tyll to morrowe, and then shall you sée my poore Husband miserably martyred.

In the morning returned *Mica Sheffola*, bringing me a great deale of Golde to spende in the prison, and demaunded of me, how I was vsed in the prison? I aunswered, very well I thanked him, for his sake I wanted nothing. Then he desyred the Jaylor to let me into a Chamber towarde the streete, that I might sée mine Hoste put to death, the which I thanke him he dyd.

Mica Sheffola returneth in the morning.

Then (quoth he vnto me) without the Cittie, I haue prouided for you a lustie Courser, and Armour to defende you with all, soone at mydnight, at the dead tyme of the nyght, shall you be let into the Garden, and there clymbe ouer to me, and I will receyue you, for I haue gotten the keyes of the *Soldanes* Treasurie, and soone at mydnight will I steale from thence so much as shall serue you in your trauayle: A deere freende of mine, and one as good a Christian as my selfe shall goe with you, to conduct you on your way from all your enimies, thus will I fulfill my promise vnto you, and yet not woorke my selfe any discredite: so that you be ready at the howre appoynted, for the Jaylors Wife wyll let you into the Garden, and so on the backe syde of the Cittie you shall escape away safely. Then a mightie hole shall be broken in your Chamber, as though you had stollen out into the streete: I dare tarie no longer, remember your selfe soone, and so God be with you.

An notable deuise to helpe Zelauto out of prison.

Nowe surely me thought it was the greatest freendshippe that euer I found at any mans handes in all my lyfe, especially, I beeing a prisoner, and hee to defraude his owne Unckle in such sort to pleasure me with all.

The Hoste brought forth to death.

Well, at lengthe my Hoste *Manniko Rigustello*, was brought out in his shyrt, and such a multitude of people was there to see him: as was the other day to see the Lady. Then went he vp vppon the Scaffolde, where they would not suffer him to speake, but presently layde him vppon an Ingine that they had made: and so wrested him to death, verie cruellie and tyrannicallie.

When he was dead, one member of him was throwen this way, an other that way; so that all his members was dispersed about the streetes, a verie greeuous and dolesyght to see. Thus was my poore Hoste martyred and mangled, and I remayned in great sorrow to thinke therupon.

The

The Gentlewoman of the Prison came vp to Zelauto, and to expell the thoughts that troubled his minde: conducted him into the Garden, and shewed him the Monuments of *Brisaro de Saroto*, who sometime was conquerour of that Cittie.

REmayning in these pensiue plightes, yet greatly encouraged through the comfort that *Mica Sheffola* gaue me: at last came vp into my Chamber the Gentlemans wife, who kept the prison, beeing named *Oriana*, a verie gallant & courteous Gentlewoman, who in the Italian language, thus saluted me. *Ditemi per cortesia Gentilhuomo, come sta vostra S.?* I aunswered. *Carrissima mia Signora, sto bene, sempre al commando vostro, e vi rendo mille gratie.* After much conference passed betweene vs together (quoth shee) shall it lyke you so well Gentleman, as to walke with me into the Garden.

Oriana the Mistresse of the prison came vp to Zelauto.

Gentlewoman (quoth I) if I would deny so small a request: I were to be accoumpted verie vncourteous. Not so (quoth shee) for perhappes other occasions may so hinder you: that you haue not the leysure which I seeme to require, and then I might be accoumpted more careleste then circumspect, in entring so rashlie to perturbe your patience. You do well good Gentlewoman (quoth I) to frame your selfe so faultie: else should not I haue knowen howe to accuse my selfe.

Well, we walked into the Garden, where shee gaue me to vnderstande of that which *Mica Sheffola* had tolde me, and that shee at the myddle of the night, would conuey me into the Garden, and so ouer the wall to him. I gaue her great thankes for her courtesie, as it dyd chiefly behoue me. At last, shee opened a great doore, where as we entred into a verie fayre Hall, and there was the Monuments of a notable Champion.

Oriana telleth Zelauto, how at night shee wyll cõuey him ouer the garden wall

In life I wun the type of hye Renowne:
And now in death I weare dame Honors *Crowne.*

Loe Syr (quoth shée) the redoubted Monuments of *Brisaro de Saroto*, who conquered this Cittie eleuen tymes, and framed the good orders, that now héere are vsed. Gentlewoman (quoth I) it seemeth that he hath béen a noble Champion, & I thanke you hartily for making me pertaker of the sight therof. With other familiar talks we passed out the time tyll supper, then went I to supper, and afterward I layd me downe vpon my bed. About the thyrd howre of the night, came shée vp, & tolde me that *Mica Sheffela* had entred into her Garden with a great deale of Treasure, and there he had left it, desiring me to prouide my selfe within an howre.

Shée sheweth him the Monumentes of Brisaro de Saroto.

Shée commeth vp bydding him to prepare himselfe.

I thanked her hartily, and tolde her, I would be as ready when she came to fetche me: as she was wylling to come for me, I could not lay mine eyes together for the ioy I conceyued, to thinke how God had blessed me, in sending me such frendes among all mine enimies.

With-

Within an howre after, she came vp very softly againe, saying: Come away Syr, your frend tarryeth your comming? It was no nede to byd me make haste, considering I shoulde escape so harde a plunge.

How *Zelauto* with *Oriana* the Mistresse of the prison went downe into the Garden, at the myddle of the night, and was conueyed ouer to Mica Sheffola, and so escapeth from his enimies.

WHen I was come downe into the Garden, finding a Ladder ready set for me to clymbe ouer: I toke leaue of the Gentlewoman, and so went ouer the wall, there stode *Mica Sheffola* at hand to receyue me. Quoth he, for the loue of God let vs make all haste possible, for the Trumpettes hath sounded the thyrde watche, and now wyll they come without the Cittie: and if we spede not the faster, we are lyke to be taken.

Zelauto goeth with Mica Sheffola away.

We trudged apace tyll we came out of all daunger, and at last we came where one held a lusty Courser for me, and Armour lay ready for me to put on, and a lyttle before was a Companion for me, who awayted the comming of any body, to giue vs warning thereof. When I was Armed and vpon Horsebacke (quoth he) though I haue not recompenced with as much as I would: yet haue I done what possible I might: there is one before shall lyue and dye with you, he wyll conduct you toward Constantinople. Thus wylling to preuent all daungers that may happen, and wysshing you prosperitie in all your affayres: a short fare well shall suffise, and so to God I commend you.

Zelauto departeth frō Mica Sheffola.

Well Syr (quoth I) I will not trifle out the time with long and tedious thankes, I am bound to pray for you, commend me to mine Hostesse *Dorin*, & to the good Gentlewoman *Oriana*, that conueyed me ouer the wall, and so we bothe parted.

Within

Within a whyle I ouer take my Companion, who was as honeſt, vertuous and ciuill a Gentleman as euer I rode with all in my lyfe. Yée and I rode together toward Conſtantinople, in which iourney befell diuers other accidentes. Thus haue you heard my firſt aduentures in Perſia: now tell me your iudgement thereof.

Aſtrapho.

My iudgement is too ſlender in ſuch a myraculous matter, but ſure you haue had the beſt Fortune that euer I heard any Aſtræpho giueth his cenſure on

this passed tale, and goeth to prouide dinner.

any, so neare the death: and yet to be delyuered, now credite me it is excellent. Well, now will I goe to get our Dinner, and will leaue you heere tyll I come agayne, in which tyme you shall peruse a proper Deuise that I will shew you. How say you, are you contented?

Zelauto.

Syr, right ioyfull of your courtesie, also glad to accept your offer, and after Dinner we will discourse of the rest, if you please.

Astrapho.

With all my heart Syr, wherefore come in and I wyll giue it you, I beleeue you wyll lyke well of it after you haue read it.

FINIS.

The

Réaders.

GEntlemen (and ryght courteous whatsoeuer) I must needes confesse, that the painfull Pylgrimage of Zelauto, hath beene so tedious vnto you in the perusing, that neither could you gaine any delight in the discourses: nor such methode of matter as you looked for, but euen playne Dunstable way, he hath tolde you an olde Canterburie tale. Yet on your iudgementes I am not to define, for that they are diuers: nor to suppose you will lyke; without I were better assured, for the one may shew the rashnesse of a vainglorious head: and the other a presumption to conster any mans behauiour. Antisthenes sayth, that as of the Serpent, the Phisition receyueth part of his remedies: so the wise man of his verie enimies (contrarie to expectation) shall obtayne some profite. Diogenes beeing by a malicious and spitefull tongue, reprehended of a fault long before committed: made answere. I remember the time when I was such a one as thou art now: but such an one as I am now wilt thou neuer be.

Likewise Gentlemen, ambicious heads, are apt to send foorth spitefull speeches, and if they can possyble catche a hole in a mans coate: the same wyll they lay euerie day in his dishe: But such secrete Serpentes in bewraying their behauiour, can not hurt him whome they wyllingly

lingly would: but confound them in their craftyeſt inuentions. Ariſtotle ſayth, that he which receyueth a falſe peece of coyne, dooth but ſuſtayne a reaſonable loſſe: but he that truſteth a fayned freend in ſteede of a true, may endammage himſelfe to his vtter vndooing, few ſuch freends God ſend me: and as much good money as ſhall pleaſe him. But now in the meane while Gentlemen, whyle ſuch coyne may be currant, and ſuch freendes found: I ſende you Aſtræphos delycate diſcourſe, to make mery with the bad banquet you haue had. And though I haue no Cumfettes and Carawayes to beſtowe vppon you: iudge my good will is neuertheleſſe, if might could maynetayne it. Thus of a little take a little when you come thereto: and of a little leaue a little howeuer you doo.

FINIS.

Yours to vſe to his power.

A. Munday.

Aſtræpho.

A Delycate Deuiſe by him *delyuered to* Zelauto, *wherein* is gallantly diſcourſed, the Amorous lyfe of a Scholler, and the braue behauiour of a martiall Gentleman, the one at laſt by looue aſwell conuinced: as the other, who alway profeſſed him ſelfe a Subiect to the ſame: neyther friuolous nor fantaſticall, but delyghtfull, and to no man preiudiciall.

¶ *The thyrd part of the* Fountayne of Fame.

Written by the ſayd Author A. M. Seruaunt to the right Honorable, the Earle of Oxenforde.

Honos alit Artes.

Astrapho.

A Delycate Deuise by him *delyuered to Zelauto, wherein* is gallantly discoursed, the Amorous lyfe of a Scholler, and the braue behauiour of a martiall Gentleman, the one at last by looue a swell conuinced: as the other, who alway professed him seise a Subiect to the same: neyther friuolous nor fantasticall, but delyghtfull, and to no man preiudiciall.

¶ *The thyrd part of the* Fountayne of Fame.

Written by the sayd Author A. M. Seruaunt to the right Honorable the Earle of Oxenforde.

Honos alit Artes.

COurteous Gentlemen, in the meane tyme as Aſtræpho is prouiding his Dinner, and hath left Zelauto at home to peruſe at his pleaſure on an Amorous diſcourſe: I wyll ſeeme ſo ſauſie, as to moleſt his ſtudies, and deſire him to let you be partakers of this Delycate diſcourſe. I hope I ſhall not neede to be all day in crauing: nor he ſo vncourteous to deny my requeſt, if he ſhould, I muſt confeſſe he offereth me great iniurie, in taking ſo much paines for him: I deſerue to craue a mightier matter. VVell, I will aſſure my ſelfe to ſpeede in my purpoſe, and you ſhall haue the hearing of the Dayntie Deuiſe. If after you haue read it, you finde it woorth his hyre, and that it hath pleaſed you, which is my whole wiſhe: I ſhall then prouide a Peach for all prating Paraſites: and keepe a ſweete Figge to gratifie my freend with all.

Honos alit Artes.

FINIS. A. Munday.

The Author.

Courteous Gentlemen, in the meane tyme as Astrapho is prouiding his Dinner, and hath left Zelauto at home to peruse at his pleasure on an Amorous discourse: I wyll seeme so fausse, as to molest his studies, and desire him to let you be partakers of this Delycate discourse. I hope I shall not neede to be all day in crauing: nor he so vncourteous to deny my request, if he should, I must confesse he offereth me great iniurie, in taking so much paines for him: I deserue to craue a mightier matter. VVell, I will assure my selfe to speede in my purpose, and you shall haue the hearing of the Dayntie Deuise. If after you haue read it, you finde it woorth his hyre, and that it hath pleased you, which is my whole wishe: I shall then prouide a Peach for all prating Parasites: and keepe a sweete Figge to gratifie my freend with all.

Honos alit Artes.

FINIS. A. Munday.

The Amorous lyfe of *Strabino* a *Scholler, the braue behauiour of* Rodolfo

a martiall Gentleman, and the right reward of Signor Truculento a Vsurer.

Cap. 1.

THe Recordes of auncient antiquitie, vnfoldeth in apert, and liuely manner the happy and prosperous estate, of the florishing and famous Cittie Verona, whose *Accademies* so worthily gouerned, and the Schollers so effectually instructed: that it caused Syr *Vincentio* of Pescara, to sende his sonne *Strabino*, there to be trayned vp in such vertuous educations: as was méete for one of his tender time. This *Strabino*, a gallãt & lusty youth, of forme well featured, of audacitie expert, in mãners well nurtured, but from Martiall affayres wholy enclined, & to loue one seuerely enthraled: fel at length in acquayntaunce with one *Rodolfo*, a Gentlemãs sonne of the Citti e, who more vsed the Schole for his pleasure, then any profite, more for a passime to talke & conferre with his frendes: then for any minde he bare to his booke. And this *Rodolfo* was one that greatly gaue himselfe to Martiall exercises, a disdayner of loue, and a reiecter of the company of Women. Betweene these twayne were ioyned such a league of Amytie: that neyther bitter blasts should procure the breach thereof, nor any accident whatsoeuer, moue them to mislike one of the other, but euen brotherlyke were vnited, tyll terme of lyfe were vtterly expired. *Strabino* vsually frequenting the house of his frend and brother *Rodolfo*, who had a Sister in all poynts so well proportioned: that the lookes of her Amorous countenaunce, infected in the heart of *Strabino*, such a restlesse rage, a scorching torment, a Feuer so

fantasticall: that none but only shée must be the curer thereof. Now are his bookes reiected, and his fancie followed: his study banished, & the Gentlewoman dutifully serued Who (alas) although he were her superiour: of her was regarded, as her farre inferiour. He lykes, he lowes, he sues, he serues, he runnes, he waytes: she lowres, she frownes, she disdaynes, and vtterly reiecteth his company. Which when he sawe, that his proffered paynes were estéemed as trifles, his continuall courtesie, regarded as lyght as a feather, and his affectioned seruice, cleane cast out of memorie: walked into the fields, and thus discoursed with him selfe.

Alas *Strabino*, yll hap hadst thou to lyght on this luckelesse lot, to lowe where thou art disliked, to serue, where thou art nothing regarded, and to fancie where lowe is extinguished. What moued thée to make her thy Goddesse that regardeth thy paines as light as a May game? What moued thée to make her thy Mistresse: who scorneth the good will of so trusty a seruant? What, is there no more Women in the world but one? Is there none can please thée so much as she? Art thou framed of such vlfauored mettall, that all will mislyke thée? In Pescara thou bearest the chéefest prayse: in Verona thou art nothing estéemed of. In Pescara thou wast lowed, in Verona thou art reiected: but alas I remember, who trusteth to a Womans will, were as good leane on a broken staffe, for when she pleaseth, then she lloueth: and whē she is displeased, she hateth like a Tode, therfore well maist thou remoue thy fancy: & set as light by her, as she doth by thée. But alas *Strabino*, if thy déedes might aunswere to thy wordes, then there were some hope of health: but thou art so surely tied, that impossible were it for thée to get lose when thou pleasest, thou sayst thou wilt do this & that, but alas, if thou couldest, thou wouldest, therfore neuer speake against thy conscience, for ỹ were no credit. I lowe her so intierly, that I can not refraine me: I fancie so forcibly, that I cannot remoue me. She is the Saint whome I serue, she is the Goddesse whome I adore, & she it is must ease my payne, else shall I neuer be holpen. Thou hast not yet tried her: therfore neuer speake the worst

of

of her, though thou hast shewen thy selfe by sũdry signes: yet canst thou not say she refuseth thée, because thou hast not opened ẏ state wherin thy well fare standeth. Thou art to blame to vse these words against her that neuer offended thée, and thou deseruest small courtesie, for thy so rash iudgement. She is syster to thy frend: he is gentle of nature, so may she be: he is courteous in conference, so may she be: he loues thee well, so may she do, therfore neuer conster things at ẏ worst, before thou haue occasion. Thinkest thou she knoweth the secretes of thy heart, that neuer talked with her? How were it possible she should loue thée, when she knoweth not whether thou louest her or no? Perswade thy selfe to spéede of thy purpose, faynt heart neuer wan fayre Lady, and a halfe hearted Soldier is terrified at the first allarum: first proue her, then prayse her, when thou hast tryed, then thou mayst trust: bye thée home in hope, & finding her at conuenient leysure, shew her thy sute. Thus the poore oppressed *Strabino* returned to ẏ Mansiõ of his Mistresse, & finding her sitting at her Sãpler in the garden: he tooke heart a fresh, and went and sate down by her, framing such deuises, as she might haue occasion to speake vnto him, who when she saw how merily disposed he was, sayd. Surely syr *Strabino*, I haue wanted your company all this day, for I haue sitten héere very solitary, and lackt such cõpany as might procure some pleasure, & now you are come: I hope we shall passe ẏ time more merier, then hytherto I haue done, and therfore you are welcome hartily.

Strabino hearing the courteous words of his Lady *Cornelia* was surprised with such inward ioy, that he neyther minded his former feare, nor yet the present peryll that might happẽ to him, but wholy depending vpon his dutifull alleageaunce, and imbracing in minde & thought her supposed lyking: hazardeth his heart to stand vnto the hap, and yéeldeth him cõquered wholy to her clemencie. Wherfore, he neyther distracting his sences with any seuerall motion, nor occupying his brayne vpon manifolde matters: desyreth pardon for that which his lyppes shall yéelde vnto lybertie, and her good construction in his actions whatsoeuer.

Syr (quoth she) if we talke of familliarity, perforce I must vse you frendly: if vpon nouelles, I will handle you as nicely: if vpon present prowfe, I will vse you pleasauntly: if vpon all, I will accoumpt you as a merie companion, so that lowke what is spoken in decent or honest wise: doubt you not but it shall be as honestly entertained, therfore say as pleaseth you.

Strabino, and *Cornelia*, courteously conferreth together. Cap. 2.

LAdy (quoth *Strabino*) I muse why the Gods, framing you first to be as a comfortable companion vnto man: you should so much digresse as to be the only instrument of our sorrowfull sadnesse, rather a worker of our woe: then one that wisheth our well fare. For this is perfectly knowen (I speake not vpon had I wist) that you Women, for the most part, are so coy of your conditions, and so curious in your conceytes: that you neyther estéeme the quantitie nor quallitie of affection: nor yet the only perfect ground of our prosperity. For admit that a whyle you beare vs in hand with many an Amorous countenaunce, many a gallant glose of firme fayth and fidelitie, yea, many a subtill surmise of pure lowe and affection, haue you once gotten that which you would haue, to fléece our purses to pranke you in pride, that you may sweat in your Sylks, whyle we goe threadbare, you on your Pantofles, when we haue scant a good shoe to our foote, you at your delycate iunckets, when we are glad to ryse with emptie bellyes, and you so much in your brauerie, that you bring vs to vtter beggerie: In fayth, then fare well frost, more such haue we lost.

May now, since he can holde out no longer: fare well he, in faith he was a good fellowe whyle he had it, but nowe since he hath no more inke in his pen: let him goe shake his eares, a new customer, a new. So long time was he fed with fancies: that after he curseth his folly. So long loued in lokes: that

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at length he lamenteth his losse. So long helde vp with wanton and wily wordes: that in the ende he curseth such paltrie fables. A colde sute, and a harde penniworth haue all they that traffique for such merchãdize. On the other side, let a man holde vp you at rack staues, diferre you of with doubtfull delayes, alleadge vnto you many defectes of abillitie, and besides that, kæpe that from you which most willingly you would haue: In faith, then he is a coũterfayt cranke, a shamlesse shæpbyter, a worldly miser, he is no good fellowe, that will not lay his penny by theyrs, a craking Companion, an eue dropper: with such and so many floutes they haue, that it is wonderfull to heare.

What great reproche is this to such wanton Women, that regard more an ell of pleasure, then an ynch of profite: more desirous of loathsome lybertie, then they care for contented lyuing? What maketh so many young Gentlemen crack theyr credite, lose theyr good name, mortgage theyr lyuinges, barter away all they haue: but such careless company? When before, they were in good and honest commendation among all men: now are they glad to hide theyr heads for shame.

I speake not this (déere Lady) to the reproche of all Women: for that were mære impudencie: but I speake in the contempt of all such as dayly frequent it, as these Cortizans which abide in the brothell house hére in Verona, & besides them, many a one that beares a gallant grace through the Cittie: taketh a snatch now and then, which by right deserue a greater reproche, then they that so dayly vse it. For by such meanes is vice intruded among the vertuous, making many that (God knowes) are well disposed lyuers, to be lyghtly accoumpted of, only by vsing the company of such careless creatures.

Syr *Strabino* (quoth *Cornelia*) your discourse hath bæne delyghtfull, yet sauoureth it sharpe some where, belyke you haue bene bitten, or stung by some of these Waspes: and that maketh you so expert in bewraying theyr qualities, for the mother would neuer haue sought her daughter in the Quen,

but that shée had béene there her selfe, and he that is galded, hath good occasion to kicke. You haue béene bartering, & found all so déere in the market: that no butter wyll sticke on your bread, or belyke you haue sauced some body: and payd swéetly for it.

But what maketh you to exclayme against women in this order? haue you loued, and not béene loued againe? haue you sought for honny, & caught the Bée by the tayle: or haue you neuer loued, and wholy giuen your selfe there against? if so you haue, the harder is your happe, for farre vnable are you to stand against the decrée of the gods, and haue you not read of diuers that haue repugned against loue: which haue béene inforced to fancie theyr inferiors? Take héede *Strabino*, least in your denying to loue some gallant Lady: you be not procured to fácie som poze *Fachine* héere in Verona. If you haue loued, & not béene loued againe: you are to moue your sute, and if it be to such a one who is frée from all other, and may well be your match: there is no doubt but after many sharpe showers, a gallant gale of winde will blow in the Skie, that will send your ioyes on heapes to you. I giue you the best counsayle that I can, and I would my proffered paynes any way might pleasure you. If either my worde, counsayle, credite, or ought else may preuayle you to her whome you lyke: credite me, you shall not finde me so ready in promising, as I wyll be in the performaunce therof.

Now Gentlemen, iudge you what sundrie & seuerall quandaries assayled the assaulted minde of poze *Strabino*, to heare such courteous talke pronounced by the person whome hée most honored and obeyed. Yet doubted he, that if shée knew the very originall and only helpe for his heauines: shée would be as slowe to performe, as she was ready to promise, but yet buylding still on good hope of her bountie: hée proceéded into farder talke.

My hope is (quoth he) my good Lady & Mistresse, that what hath passed in my presumptuous talke, you will conster it at the best: but sure as yet I am frée from that which you haue supposed, only this I am to confesse, that I loue & lyke, where

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I am neither refused nor yet entertained, wherfore I cã not condempne vpon no occasion: nor I can not prayse before it be deserued. So that I am neither to vaunt as victor: nor yet to yéld as altogether conquered. And why I haue enuyed against these sort of Women, I can yéld you some sufficient reason: I haue known diuers of my frænds, that haue wasted out they? web of youthfull time, in frequenting company with such wilfull Women. As for example, one dære frænde of mine, who was tost, turmoyled, and vtterly made hauock of: among those whome he thought had loued him dærest, yea some that were of good name and credit, that sucked him drye: & then matched them selues with other. Therfore I say, it is hard to know who a man may trust now a dayes: for you Women are so craftie, that a man cannot tell howe to deale with you.

In déede Syr (quoth she) though we be craftie, you men are more deceyptfull. It behoueth vs to stand vpon our reputation, and to make the matter nice and coy to some, for when they haue once caught vs: they will vse vs as they lyst. What sorrowe and care is it to be a maried Wife: that which God hath ordayned to be a comfort and solace betwéene man and woman, is made nowe a thing of most contempt: for when we be maried, then cõmeth our cares all at once: how many frowning lookes: how many crabbed countenances: how many sharpe wordes: beside, how many continuall grefes and sorrowes of the minde: If our Husbandes be a lyttle displeased: all ỹ house must be out of quiet. If he frowne, then what is nert hand, flyes at the face of his Wife. If he se her but merily disposed in any company, then is he ielous: if she looke on any man, then she lusteth after him. Then is she watcht and spied, in euery place where she goeth, to catche her in a tryp, the which vrgeth her soner to do it, when before she neuer thought it. What terror, & what diuellish mindes are these of men: who when they come to woing, then plead they simplicitie: then yea forsothe, and no forsothe, this shall be and that shall be, when God knowes, when it comes to perfection: it is neyther so, nor so.

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Can you blame Women, if they be so lothe to graunt to your requestes: and can you thinke them so harde, when you your selues are harder then the Adamant? Can you say Women are ordayned as a plague vnto men: when as you your selues plague them so cruelly: O deepe dissemblers, O prating Parasites: What subtill Sophisters: What faire mouthed fellowes are these? What paynted sheathes, fayre without & fowle within? Who would thinke that you could beare such a double heart about with you. I hope you shall be fayne to say at length, *Ars deluditur arte.* Henceforth therefore neuer enuy at Women: when you are wurse your selues, nor neuer play the Crauens, as Cockes of your owne dunghyll: the shame wyll redound where it is worthy, and you shall be forced to crye *Peccaui*. Ah Syrra, though you haue all the learning, God hath leant vs some wyt, that wee should not be to much deceyued. Therefore neuer vpbrayde vs with such Rhetorical glosses, nor neuer fall out with those who are your best frendes: If you lyke vs, loue vs: if not, let vs alone.

Strabino, halfe driuen in feare of incurring his Ladyes displeasure, and doubting least his talke had bread some cause of melancholie: calles vp his wittes together, to make amends for his former fault. For thought he, if now I comming to speake for mine owne auayle, and to gayne the good wyll of my best beloued, should seeme to apprehend or reprehend in such causes as willingly shee would not: it might marre all my matter, and throwe all my good Fortune into the fyre. Wherfore, euē as the childe when he hath made a fault, commeth creeping on his knees with bytter teares, willing to kisse the rod, & so to pacifie the yre of his Parents whome he displeased, or as the Ape when he hath nipt one to the quick, and seeth the whip holden vp in signe of correction: cōmeth with chattering the teethe, holding vp the ten bones, so to content his maisters displeasure conceyued: Euen so meekely and mildly commeth *Strabino* to the louing lap of his Lady, and in signe & token of humilitie, vttereth these wordes. Deere Lady & Mistresse, not so wel satisfied & contented with

your

your reasonable replie: as sorrowfull for suffering my tõgue so rashly to offend you. Rather impute it therefore to obliuiousnesse of my selfe: then to any willingnesse to incurre your anger. More honour trulie shall it be to you, quietly to put vp the chollorike woords of an impudent Scholler: then to menace your anger, where as sorrow sufficient is retayned. It is a good Horse that neuer stumbleth, he is verie circumspect that speaketh alway without a fault, and he is verie vpright that neuer committeth crime. I must confesse my tongue ran before my wyt, and my mouth vttered that which my heart neuer thought. But the best is, my boasting brauerie, can blemishe none of your bountie: nor my franticke foolishnesse, impayre any of your vertuous credite. But all is well that is well taken, little sayde is soone amended, and so I pray you pardon your penitent, and sorrowfull offender.

Syr *Strabino* (quoth she) for this fault, you haue already obtayned pardon, it was not so grœuously taken as you thought for: nor it was not so fault worthy as nowe you graunt it. I am not to exact the vttermost of any man: nor I am not to conceyue an anger before iust cause be offred, for you know, that what talke so euer we vse, that doth not stretch beyond the boundes of honest and allowable reason: by promise is to be estœmed of no effect, therfore I discharge that Obligation of his full strength and vertue, and sticke to the promise passed. Mary, yet am I on the other side, to thinke well of you, that stode in such awe of displeasing her: who was far more afrayd of incurring your anger. Wise women are not to be too captious nor to quarrellous, neither to hasty, nor to slowe, for it were no poynt of ciuillitie to handle our frœndes churlishly, and it were mœre folly to quip them vpon no greater occasion. First, we are to vnderstand the efficient cause that vrgeth them to speake, & to way it thorowly in the wayghts of modestie: and so to giue aunswere, that we be neyther found to scrupilous in the one, nor to coy in the other. I knowe you are my frœnd, and so I estœme you, and as my frœnd I make accounpt of you, then

neuer thinke that I your frend will seme to conster your meaning at the wurst: nor yet to condempne you vpon no greater occasion. I can not deny but that some are verie apt to anger, to receyue a matter yll, be it neuer so well spoken, that doth demõstrate a great error in her that vseth it, whatsoeuer: and condempneth her of impudencie, for her so light beléefe. Soft fyre (they say) maketh swéete mault, a wyse Woman will way all with discretion: but a fole will be hasty, and to troublesome to deale with all. Wise *Cato* sayth, Bridle thine anger with modestie, and iudge not of a matter too rashly, for as there is great commendation in the one: so is there great shame followeth the other. It is a sémely thing for euerie one to vse theyr anger with discretion: because (perchaunce) it may redound to theyr discredite. Thus *Strabino* suffice your selfe, that the coales of my anger were sone kindled and sone quenched. For if I should be angrie with you: you might accoumpt it but the rashnesse of a Woman, and her want of forsight, and so I pray you take it.

Strabino, perceyuing the courteous excuse of *Cornelia*, and that his passed talke was taken in such gentle grée: thought it now good time to preferre his sute, and so desiring her patience, procéeded as followeth.

¶ *Strabino* now offereh his loue and seruice to his Lady, requiring the courteous acception thereof. Cap. 3.

When déere Lady, since neyther my rude behauiour hath offended you, nor my passed presúption purchased any yll will: I hope I may vnder authoritie of your lycence, procéede to the verie ground and effect of all which I haue to vnfolde. For since your wisdome hath weyghed eche cause so discréetly, and construed the meaning thereof with such good demeanour: I will make you partner of my passed perylles, and of the distresse that may ensue (alwayes prouided) that you

you accept and conceyue no wurse then I thinke it. Since it hath bëene my hap (dëere Lady) hëere in Verona, to passe my time in studious exercise, according to the long desired wishe of my Parentes: I haue one way profited, and an other way procured my peryll, for casting mine eyes among the renowned troupe of gallant Dames, (as hëere are many) the bountifull beautie of one among all the rest, hath so searched the secretes of my hydden heart, & bewitched my wittes in such wonderfull wise: that neyther medicines may serue to mittigate, hearbes, or any Phisicall potion adiuuate to amendment: but only that soueraigne salue which most doth delight me, her little finger would lyft me to life, a word of her mouth would cease all my sorrowes, and one question absolued: would make me a sufficiẽt Scholler. I presume in place, where I behold this fœmely shë: and the more I come in her company: the greater increaseth my care, the more I loke: the more I lyke, but lyking brings such restlesse woe: that were it not I had a soule to saue, and that I stand in awe of the anger of God: I should finish this Tragedie, with such a mercilesse massacring of my pore selfe, that neyther should she vaunt of ỹ losse of my life: nor I be thought to demerit so dyrefull a death. But what nëedeth all these words: to what ende do I make this tedious protestatiõ my helpe is neuer ỹ more furdred, but by talking of her I am ỹ more endamaged.

Ah Sir (quoth *Cornelia*) is the winde in ỹ dore now? are you Sea sick so sone, & not halfe a myle ouer? well, well, this litle sparke will flame to so fierce a fire: that perhaps all ỹ wit you haue is not able to quench it. Why Lady (quoth he) I am not so farre ouer shoes: but I may returne yet drie, nor I am not so far in, but I may easily escape out, there is more wayes to the wood then one, and passages wherin are no peryll. I shall vse my selfe in extremity as I sëe occasion: and doubt you not my wyt shall stand for a warrant. Syr (quoth she) the crafty Fore would eate no grapes, no though they fel in his mouth, the Catte will eate no swëete milke, for feare of marring her tëeth: so you would not be in loue, no though you might, and when you are in, you will loue as your lyst.

O Syr, soft fyre makes swéete Mault, it is yll to halt before a Triple, and it were shame to belye the Diuell. Your owne wordes doth condempne you in that you haue spoken: or else you are very impudent, that you speake you know not what. Medicines you say, can make no amendment, the force of Phisicke to helpe you doth fayle, and yet you say, there is one soueraigne salue can minister a remedie. O crafty head, your téethe will not let your tongue lye, in faith it is almost tyme to byd you good night. Yet to sée how you will maintayne your matter with wresting of wordes, you would make me beléeue the Mone is made of gréene chéese: In faith Syr no, you must rise somewhat more early, if you goe beyond me: and you must deale more subtilly, if you séeke to deceyue me. But truly if you were as mighty a man of your déede, as you are of your worde: Verona would be little enough to holde you, and neuer a Woman of them all durst abyde your stearne countenaunce. You do well, you will holde with the Hare, and run with the Hound, and you would play *Ambodexter*, if you could tell how, but in fayth Syr I haue you at my fingers ende, euen as perfect without booke as you are within.

Strabino with this passed tale was so nipt in the head, that he had scant any thing to say, & when he saw she was so craftie, that his subtill Sophistry did deceyue him: he would with all his heart haue béene farre enough from her presence: or that his talke were to begin againe. For albeit he was a man stoute of his person: yet they that had séene him now, would haue thought he had neither life nor soule left in him. Which when *Cornelia* beheld how sadly he sate, and would speake neuer a word, how his couller went and came, as though he had lyne a dying: thought it no courtesie to let him languishe so: but to giue him a fresh encouragement to reuiue vp his spyrites. Why Syr *Strabino* (quoth she) is your heart in you hose? Is your corragious countenaunce so sone chaunged to pale and wanny chéekes? Your face makes apparaunce of your gréeuous disease, and your lookes bewray you, that you are in loue. But what of that? neuer dismay your selfe

with

with any doubting dread, nor let not my talke so seeme to to trouble you, if I haue made a faulte: I aske you forgiuenesse, and if I haue displeased you: I will do so no more. You know, promise was made, that all should be well accepted, that pertayned to no harme, and that which should passe betweene vs: should not be offensiue to eyther. I for my part am not offended with any thing spoken: and if you are, truly you be to blame. I will leaue your company, if you be not more merie, and will forsake hereafter any more to frequent it. Shake handes and be frendes againe, and tell me who she is that you so faithfully loue: I will stand your frende perhappes in the matter, and if of my selfe I am not able to do it: I will informe those of it, who (doubt you not) shall bring it to effect.

With that *Strabino* reuiued him selfe out of his browne study, and began smugly to holde vp the head, right wylling he left his so sodayne quandarie: and began to loke vp with a sensorical countenance. His heart that before lay in a hole: was now ready for ioy to leap out at his mouth, his minde that earst was pinched with passions: was now so iocond, that it daunced with ioy, and his couller that before was as pale as ashes: began now as fresh as the redolent Rose, euerie member which before seemed maimed: he could now stretch out to the ninth degree. And if his present seruice might haue wonne him a Wife: he was able to discharge it, & that to the vttermost, besides, his conceytes began to come so nimbly together: that he now rolled in his Rhethoricke, lyke a Flea in a blanquet. (Ah courteous *Cornelia* (quoth *Strabino*) how much am I bound in dutie to your seemly self? How much am I indebted to your prudent personage? that with such sweete perswasions, such maydenly and modest motions, such heroycall and singuler actions: hath losed to lybertie a discouraged prisoner, and hath reuiued him to lyfe, who was almost past all hope of recouerie.

Excellent was the opinion of *Valerius Maximus*, who cõmended the frendly dedes, done in aduersitie, as for prosperitie will succour it selfe. My selfe may be witnesse, in ad-

uauncing your frendlines, whose aduersity was vncurable: had I not obtained councell of so prudent a Phisition. I thãk you for your frendly offer, wishing I were able to counteruayle it as I would, and that my might were correspondent to my well meaning intent: then should you see the depth of my desyre, and haue occasion to thinke you should not passe vnrewarded The Lady whome I loue will be won to your will, the Saint whome I serue: will fulfill your request, and the least word of your mouth, will binde vp the bargaine. So that dw you but speake: I speede, dw you say yea, and I shall haue no nay, so much dare I crake of her credite, and boast of her bountie: that you can not so sone say the word: but she will wyllingly dw the dede.

Cornelia smiling at this gallant glose, and hauing half a coniecture at what marke he aymed to shote at: framed such an aunswere as she thought best her selfe, and to make *Strabinos* sute neuer the nere. The foolish Flye (quoth she) so long iesteth with the Candle, that at last she sindgeth her selfe, the silly Mouse wandreth oft so farre abroade: that she is taken tardy before she come home, and the Nightinggale singeth so sweetly, tyll she fall in a slepe, and so oftentymes is caught at vnawares. Lykewise, I haue helde you here so long with a pleasaunt tale, that you make me halfe mistrust my selfe. If your Lady be so wilfull, to be wonne to my will, and so courteous that she will come at my call, yea, if I say the word, you aske no better bargaine: either I must coniecture, that her affection is greater to me then to you: or that shee would clayme assurance of me for your good behauiour. Now credite me *Strabino*, you are wylie in your wordes: yet not so craftie, but I conceyue your meaning.

Qui simulat verbis, nec corde est fidus Amicus:
Tu quoque fac simile: sic Ars deluditur arte.

But yet *Strabino*, let these matters passe, and to come to the poynt, wherupon we haue stode so long, name me your Lady, what she is, and where she dwelleth: then shall you heare farder what I will dw for you. If so be (quoth *Strabino*) you will promise me no good will shall want on your part, to the fulfyl-

fulfylling my requeſt, and that you will not hinder the matter I haue in hand: I will ſhew you the ſwéete ſhe, whoſe captiue I am, and to whoſe loue I am thus intierly intangled. Syr (quoth ſhe) *Qui ante non cauit, poſt dolebit*, A man may loue his houſe well, though he ride not on the roſe, and a man may make a good Mart, yet be no great gayner. There goeth more woordes to a bargayne then one, and other prayers to be vſed beſide the *Pater noſter*, when you haue tolde me your tale: you ſhall ſée what I will ſay, and though I make you no promiſe: doubt not but I will pleaſe you.

Then toke *Strabino* vp her glaſſe that hung at her Gyrdle, and therein he framed many an Amorous countenaunce. At laſt (quoth *Cornelia*) what fancies finde you there, that makes you ſo pleaſaunt? or haue you a delyght in beholding your owne face? Nay (quoth he) not for the fancie I finde in mine owne face: but for the comely countenaunce that conſiſteth in my Lady and Miſtreſſe. And haue you found her face there (quoth ſhe) I pray you let me ſée her, to iudge if I know her. After *Cornelia* had loked a whyle, ſhe ſayd. Why *Strabino*, you promiſed I ſhould ſée that ſéemely ſhée, to whom you owe ſuch delightfull loue & loyaltie. And what I promiſed (quoth he) hath béene héere performed. As how (quoth ſhe) Whoſe face (quoth he) did you behold whē I ſhewed you? why yours and mine owne (quoth ſhe) I thought it would come to ſuch a paſſe, well I will ſpeake to her, & if ſhe chaunce to giue her conſent: doubt you not but you ſhall heare of it. But one thing I can tell ye, & that you ſhall perfectly proue, how ſhée is wedded to her will, and maried to her owne minde: that ſhe had rather lyue a mayden ſtyll, then be bydden to ſo bad a breakfaſt.

That were againſt reaſon (quoth he) that ſhe ſhould be ſo maryed to her minde: as not to reſpect one ſo good as her ſelfe, or that in diſdayning ſo good a breakfaſt, be forced to come to a courſer dinner. A little pyttance in the morning: is better then to be faſting all day, and perhaps, a good ſtrong ſtake ſtroke in the hedge in Summer: will ſtand for a good defence in the Winter.

Albeit

Albeit Syr (quoth she) you are her better: yet she thinkes it not against reason to lyke before she loue, and though it be not expedient to giue the chyldrens bread to dogges: yet will they lycke the crums that falles from theyr maisters table. And besides she thinkes, that if she kæpe her stomacke for a good supper: she shall not take surfeit of her fasting all day. Lykewise, though the strong stake do well fortifie the hedge for Winter: yet if the stake be without other defence: the Beasts will easily get ouer and spoyle the pasture, and so in tyme vtterly vndoe the owner.

Strabino hauing well and sufficiently pondred her talke: thought now he would not discourage him selfe with the diuersitie of her deuises, but euen as his heart serued him he would make her an aunswer. Why Lady (quoth he) do you misdoubt of my bountifull behauiour: or y I am such a one as regardeth not my honesty: Thinke you if I would make my choyse, I could not haue as good as you, or if my minde had bæne so addicted, ere this I could not haue bæne sped: thinke you all Women are of your minde: or that they will dislyke vpon no occasion: No credit me, *Cornelia* (I speake *Bona fide*) if my stomacke had serued: I could haue bæne sone suffised, and if all Women were of your minde: I should haue but a colde sute with my woing. But belyke you are betrothed already: and that makes you so dayntie, if you be tell me, that I may lose no more labour.

Truly Syr *Strabino* (quoth she) if as yet I am betrothed: it is more then I know, what my Parents haue done, I know not, but as yet I can assure you, there is no such matter meant by me. But what of that, you are neuer the nærer your purpose, nor yet the likelyer to gayne my good wyll, you are a gallant Gentleman, well known in Verona, wherfore you may chaunce to lyght on a better bootie, and doubt you not but there are those, who with all theyr hearts would haue you. Wherfore good Syr, neuer fæde your humors on such a homely pæce: since there be more delycate Damoselles that will not deny you. But now it drawes toward supper tyme, and occasion is so offred: that perforce I must leaue

you,

you, desiring you not to deeme any discourtesie, that I leaue your company so soone.

Nay (quoth *Strabino*) I am not to conceyue the wurst of your departure: but rather to thanke you, that vouchsaued my company so long, no anger I trust is conceyued for my superfluous speeche: but rather pardoned for that no dishonestie was meant. Thus thanking you a thousand tymes for your courtesie offered: tyll Fortune so frame our next meeting together, I commend you to God, whome I pray graunt me my wishe, and you the depth of your desire.

Thus Gentlemen is *Cornelia* and *Strabino* parted, he taking the way home to his Chamber: and she speedeth her selfe that she were at supper, but so sowre a sauce she had giuen *Strabino*: that the sharpnesse turned his stomacke from minding any meate. It is not straunge to see what a metamorphesis Loue maketh of a man: that he which earst might haue bragged with the best: is now become to carefull for any company, he which earst walked the streetes with a gallant grace: nowe pulleth his bonet ouer his browes, that none may beholde his sodayne alteration: He which before lyued merily, faring with the finest, and delyghting in the dayntiest: now scant eateth a good meales meate in a month. He commeth to his Chamber, throweth him selfe on his bed, incombred with so many cares, that it is vnspeakable: at last vnto him selfe talketh in this order.

O God, where are become the loftie lookes I vsed before I was a Louer? Where are the curious countenaunces, the wayghtie wordes, the dayntie dealinges, the bolde behauiours, and the manly order of lyfe wherein I lyued before? Hath Loue so puissaunt a power to reuert my swetnesse into sorrowes, my myrth into mazednesse, my life into langor, and all my happinesse into a state so helpelesse? O greefe without ende, O sorrowes without ceasing, O hellish tormentes that hath no conclusion. But yet am I the first that was framed to folly? Or I am the last that shall be lead by Loue? Hath not the Gods themselues beene subiect to lyke mestiue miseries? Did not Iupiter enter Acrisius tower, in the shape

of a fayre swimming Swan, to deflowre faire Danea? *Apollo* persecuted Daphne to get his will of her: Neptune begatte Nauplius father to Palamedes of Amimone, daughter of Danæus: Mercurie lay with Lar the beautifull Nimphe, and got of her two prety chyldren called Lares. Likewise king *Dauid* became conuinced by the loue of *Bersaba*: *Salomon* the wise was subiect to loue likewise. If then loue hath made the Gods to agrée, the wise to be wilfull, the stoutest to stoupe: is it possyble for me pore *Strabino*, to resist a thing of such force? O *Cornelia*, lyttle doost thou estéeme the good wyll I beare thée, lyttle dost thou accoumpt of my constancie, lyttle dost thou regard my restlesse rage, & little dost thou déeme all my dolorous doubtes. Is thy heart so frosen, that the sunny beames of bounty may not make it to melt? Is thy minde so misbeléeuing, that no faithfull fidelitie may séeme to reforme it? Is not dayly proofe sufficient to trye my trustinesse? Is not the great good will I beare thée, able to cause thée to accoumpt well of me? To offer me crueltie for courtesie, thou dost me open iniurie. Alas wretched wight that I am, whose miserie is more then mine? Whose dayes more dolorous, whose tyme more troublesome, whose life more loathsome, & whose state more yrksome, the day to me is nothing delightfull: the night more carefull, sléepe I can not, and waking, I neuer cease wayling.

Sometime I syt to conquere the cogitations, which weary my wittes: then againe am I driuen into a more déepe desire. Sometime I scorne and laugh at Loue, thinking mine owne wyll a sufficient warrant: but then in a moment aryseth manifolde miseries, so that neither waking nor sléeping, walking or sitting, can my sorrowfull selfe sustayne any rest. Why wast thou borne to abide such bitternesse? why hast thou lyued to sée this trystfull tyme? why hath not death desired his due: and the graue cutte of this mercilesse grase? O Laberinth of intricate euylles, O maze of endlesse myseries, whome neither dutifull surrendring of my selfe may suffise: nor any vertuous action séeme to content you. Cease *Strabino*, giue not thy selfe altogether to insolencie, nor frame

not

not thy selfe wholy vanquished with follyes, time may turne thy troubles to tranquilitie, tyme may make thy foes thy frēendes, and tyme may reuert all thy paynes to pleasure. Impute not thy Lady altogether disloyall, for he that spēedeth at the first: woeth well, and he that hath no denyall: in my opinion is very fortunate.

In these and such lyke carefull complayntes the solytarie *Strabino* hath worne away the wearysome night. In the morning commeth his brother and frēend *Rodolfo*, to vnderstand the cause of his sodaine sickneſſe.

Rodolfo, the brother of *Cornelia*, and auouched freend to Strabino, commeth to the Chamber to knowe the cause of his sickneſſe. Cap. 4.

AT last *Rodolfo* a dēere frēende to *Strabino*, and Brother to his Lady and Mistresse, mysling his frēend from Schoole, wherto was his dayly repayre: commeth to his Chamber, & there found him tolling and turmoyling him selfe, on his carefull coutch, which when he sawe, as one amased at this sodayne mutabilitie, and greatly grēeued to sēe his frēend in such a pittious plyght: beganne thus to frame his spēeche.

My dēerest frēend & chēefest Jewell of my ioy, not so glad of the rare frēendship that in you I haue found: as sorrowfu'l to sēe this vncouth sight. Is this the comely countenaunce that you were wont to carie: and now chaunged into the perfect Image of care? Are you that man, that earst dyd swim in delyght: and now bereft of your former behauiour? Was my wordes earst worthy to procure thēe to pleasure: and now not able to stand in their former effect? Am not I the same *Rodolfo* I was wont to be: and shall not I nowe be accoumpted as thy former frēend?

What is the cause my *Strabino* of this sodayne alteration? How happens it you are so sone chaunged into heauines? If I be worthy to know the cause of your carefulnesse, or that my desertes may gayne my desire: let me vnderstand the sum of your sorrowes, and doubt not but I will sée some redresse for you.

Strabino hauing well wayed the wordes of his frend, and how earnest he was in this his request: bethought him selfe how he might sufficiently aunswer him, and yet not be found tardy in his talke. Perhappes afterward he would discouer more of the case: but at this instaunt he should not knowe whome he loued, wherefore in this order he framed his aunswere. My déere *Rodolfo*, whose frendshippe I highly make accoumpt of, & whose fidelitie I haue found firme in waighty affayres, to you will I display my dolorous disease: hoping by your meanes it may be mittigated.

Since first it was my fortune (déere frend) to vse the company of the braue Ladyes and Damosels héere in Verona: I haue béen attainted with so many perillous passiõs: that sure I am past hope to haue any recouerie, yet dow I striue with mine affection as forceably as I can: but vnpossible it is for me to remoue it, so excellently dow I estéeme of the person, whome I honour: that in lyfe or death I am hers at commaund.

Rodolfo perceyuing *Strabinos* sickenesse, and how that loue made him to languish in such sort: he estéemed the matter of lesse accoumpt, and made him an aunswer but little to please him. Ah Syr (quoth he) are coales so sone kindled in your vncertaine stomack? is your minde so mutable, that no stedfast stay may be had? Are you one ý regardeth not your prosperitie: or make you so small accoumpt to fall into miserie? Dow you sée the daunger each day before your eyes: and are so hédeleste to fall headlong in the same? You haue read your selfe, how the effectes of Loue are strauuge: and by so much as you haue séene and heard, me thinkes it should be odious vnto you. Forget you *Plautus* wordes, when as touching this diuellish disease, he sayth: *Iactor, crucior, agitor, stimulor, verſor*

verſor in amoris rota, miſer exanimor, feror, diſtrahor diripior, vbi non ſum: ibi ſum, ibi eſt animus. How like you this leſſon alleaged to your Loue? How can you excuſe that theſe feares are not felt? How can you diſproue theſe innumerable daũgers? Remember *Antigonus* woordes to his Father *Demetrius*. Let *Seleucus* folly to his ſonne, forwarne thée what aduerſeneſſe conſiſteth in this contagious diſeaſe, who ioyned his owne Wife with his ſonne in mariage to ſatiſfie his luſt. What cauſed the long diſſencion betwéen *Themiſtocles* and *Ariſtides*: but the loue of *Steſilia* the harlot? What procured the hatred betwéene *Cato* and *Cæſar*: but the lycentious loue after *Seruilia* the ſtrumpette? *Semiramis*, honored and extolled for her nobleneſſe of minde, and vertue in her déedes: by loue brought her name into eternall infamie. Why are the Aſsirian kinges ſo reproued of wantonnes: but for the lawleſſe loue they vſe, with theyr Concubines? Dyd not loue blemiſhe the rare renowne of *Hanniball* in Salapia? Dyd not loue infect the fame of *Alexander*? What cauſed *Catalin* to kyll his ſonne *Oriſtilla*: but loue? What cauſed *Laodice* Wife to *Ariartes* King of Cappadocia to murder his ſonnes: but loue? What made *Scilla* to deſtroy her Father: but loue? What made the ſtately walles of Troy be ſacked: but loue? Infinite are the extremities which through loue aryſe, and can not be ſo much reprehended: as by right it deſerueth. What man ſo wilfull to come ſubiect to Women? What paynes more intollerable then to come at theyr calles? It is theyr ioye, to haue one bowe at theyr beckes, it is theyr delight to haue one wayte on theyr wylles, it is the chéefeſt of theyr choyſe, to haue a man ſue for theyr ſuccour. Then Gyll will be a Gentlewoman, if ſhe could but Parle vn petit de Francoys. If a man will be made a meacock, & blinde him ſelfe with a little of theyr bolde behauior: then is theyr coyne currant, yea, better ſyluer then an honeſter Womans. If they can once fledge them ſelues, with an other mannes fethers, and iet in theyr Jewelles at other mens coſtes: then a pin for the prowdeſt, a fygge for the fineſt, ſhe is as honeſt as the beſt, though ſhe be aſhamed to vſe it, yet ſure ſhe

doth well, not to haue her honestie so much séene, least with wearing it on worcking dayes, it may catch to much heat, & so melt it away: or els take so much colde, ỹ it wil neuer be good after. If with a song, you would be sung a sléepe, or with a dáuce lead to delight, or if you haue the Quatrinos, to play at sinke & syse: then is she a Companion with the cunningest, a fellowe with the forwardest, and will rather play small game: then syt quite out. Who would misse such a mate, that for a monthes pleasure: will after make you leade a loathsome life? Who would lacke such a Lasse, that for a dayes pride: will make you goe a moneth starke naked? Now truly he were vnwise, that would not haue such a Wenche, and he were too farre foolishe, that would want such a Bon Companion.

Oh *Strabino*, in fayth the blacke Ore neuer trode on your foote yet, you neuer came where it grewe: nor you neuer tryed time, as héere after you shall finde it. If you had beaten the bush, and caught any of the Hyrds: I doubt not but you would haue tolde me an other tale. If you be wise: stay your selfe in this state, if you will followe your frends who wishe you well: eate a bushell of Salt with them, ere you trust any one of them, for you were better beware before: then wishe you had taken héede, when it is too late. Trye & then trust mée, if you finde not true that I haue tolde you: then report of mée, as my déedes shall giue occasion.

Strabino hauing lyne still a pretie whyle, and deuised howe he might now stand in defence of his Misteriſſe: made aunswere vnto his frend on this wise. Syr (quoth he) saying and doing are two mens labours, and it is easier for a man to promise: then to fulfill, your selfe now setteth such a corragious countenaunce on the matter: as though your minde were inuincible. Thinke you there is not as wise men in the world as you? Are you made of such mettall, as force will not melt you? could you if the matter were brought to the tryall: with all the cunning you haue make any resistaunce? No credit me, but euẽ so glad to finde ease as my self: & march vnder *Cupids* banner for company. What sayd *Ariosto* in the com-

commendation of Lœue? He sayth, what swéeter state? what moze bountifull blysse, and what moze happy life: then to be lyncked in lœue? *Chrisippus* also sayth, that lœue is the bond of frændship, and ought not to be helde in contempt: foz that beauty is the flowze of vertue. *Cicero* holdeth opinion, that a Wise man may lawfully lœue, and the very recipzocall and mutuall societie of true & faithfull frændship (say the Peripations) is Lœue. *Zeno* the Pzince of the Stoikes affirmeth, that it is nædefull and necessarie of young men to be lœuers, and neuer disagrœeth with wise men: foz that Lœue is an associate with vertue. And will you repzœue Lœue that is so much honozed? Will you disdayne Lœue that is so magnified? Will you condemne all Women, although some be euill? and will you repzehend all Women foz one strumpets sake? What perillous paines? What troublesome trauaile? What pinching panges, and what manifolde miseries, dyd one woman sustaine foz you? Remember her that brought you into this wozld, cõsider her care in pzouiding foz your pzosperity, thinke on the dayly deuises her motherly affection framed to kéepe you in quiet, sometime lulling on the lap, and trifling with many a toy, foz the pure lœue she bare her childe, remẽber all these poynts indifferently: and then iudge how much you are boũd vnto that famous sex. Did not God giue *Adam* in Paradise a Woman foz his cõpanion? Hath not God ozdained man & woman to liue together in matrimony? and ỹ the mutuall lœue betwéene man & wife, is to him most acceptable? O my frœnd *Rodolfo*, fozsake this fondnes, leaue of this lewdnes, & take holde on a better text, lœue them ỹ lœue you, and maintayne no mozе this vaine assertion. When *Rodolfo* had wayed the sick mans aunswer, & that he was so farre in: ỹ it was to late to crye hoe, he sayd. Now credit me *Strabino*, all women haue iust cause to wage you well: because you stãd in their defence so doubtily, were I a woman: you should not want what possibility could perfozme, & sure I would chuse you alwayes foz my Champiõ against any whatsoeuer. And truly, she whome you lœue, knowing what mettall you are made of: if she lœue you not againe, she is very vncurteous.

Well

Well, I warrant you, ye will not dye of this disease, you will take better aduisement with you I hope. If you would frequent the Tournaments, to bestride the stately Stædes, and with the shiuering Launce to behaue your selfe manfully: these fœlishe fancies, these troublesome thoughtes, and these coy cogitations would sœne abandon you. The howre you know of our exercise is at hand, I must be gon, my Companions attend my comming, in the after noone I will visit you againe. Your sodayne departure (quoth *Strabino*) is an augmenting of my grœfe, but I will not hinder you from your valiaunt exercise: tyll you come agayne, God kœpe you.

Rodolfo bœing departed: *Strabino* could not take any rest, vp he rose, his head incombred with a thousand thoughts, his minde musing on many matters. One whyle he thought to goe sée his swœte Saint: then he thought it would but procure the greater payne, an other whyle he thought to send to her: then he doubted how she would take the matter, at last, he tooke pen, inke and paper, and framed his salutations, as followeth.

ALbeit dœre Mistresse, you may accoumpt me more wytlesse, then wise, and more saucie then besœmeth me, to perturbe your patience, with these friuolous lynes: yet if you respect the good will I wishe you, and consider the dutifull seruice I am ready to showe you: I trust I shall be discharged of any crime cõmitted, and that my honest intent deserueth no rashe repulse. Part of my paines I haue bewrayed to your bounty, and some of my sorrowes you haue secretly sœne: then iudge if my iustnes deserues not your gentlenes, and whether my constancie may claime part of your courtesie. *Pigmalion* so long imbraced a colde stone: that at last he wonne the same to his Wife. *Admetus* in the attyre of a man, with long seruice gayned his best beloued. If Looue were so effectuall to frame, fit for theyr fancies: why may not *Strabinos* hap at length returne fortunate? But perhappes dœre Mistresse, you will alleadge that the lybertie of my spœch, bewrayeth the lyghtnesse of my Looue, & that I sœme

to

to vndermine you with forgerie, intending no fidelytie. To driue you out of such doubts, and discharge my selfe of double dealing, and to proue my loue vehement without vaunting, feruent without falsehood, trusty without trifling, and constant without any craftinesse: let be practised for proofe, what shall please you to imploy me: and commaund to the vttermost, though it were losse of my lyfe. If you finde me faltring: then rightly repell me, and if you proue me periured: then neuer more vse me. Thus committing the sum of my sute to your swéete solution, and the construing of my cause to your inestimable courtesie: I referre héere to multiply manifolde matters, and so with a Courteous *Conge*, byd you farewell hartily.

Yours to commaund, the solitary *Strabino*.

This Letter thus written, and sealed with sorrowes: he wished a thousand times it were in the hands of his courteous *Cornelia*. But now thought he, how might I behaue my selfe in the sending my sute? Howe might I deuise to haue this delyuered? If I carie it my selfe: I shall be suspected, if I send it by a straunger: her Father may chaunce to sée it. If I should make my fréend *Rodolfo* messenger, hée would then perceyue the sum of my secretes, then would hée sée that his Sister were my Saint, and that her loue would set me at lybertie. I knowe not how the matter may be misvsed: nor how the cause may be by them consulted. A bargayne (they say) well made is halfe won, and he that workes surely: lightly hath no harme, then will I trust none in this but my selfe: so if I spéede not well, none knowes it but my selfe.

The Tournaments béeing ended: *Rodolfo* returned, and finding *Strabino* walking in his Chamber: requested to know how he felt him selfe amended? Quoth *Strabino*, neyther amended, nor worse impayred: but euen as you left me, yet if it were not for hope: the heart could not holde, so I hope that that my sicknesse, will in the ende returne my swéetnesse. Walking I thinke will somewhat mittigate the mazednesse

of my minde, and beside make me haue a stomacke the better to my meate: if it shall please you to walke with me: I wyll after goe with you to your Fathers house. With right good wyll (quoth *Rodolfo*) I wyll walke where you please, and do what you can deuise: so that I might somewhat perswade you from loue.

Signor Truculento, an extorting Vsurer in Verona, commeth to the house of Giorolamo Ruscelli, the father of Cornelia, to desire his Daughter in mariage, and bringeth with him a sumptuous present. Cap. 5.

Leauing *Rodolfo* and *Strabino* in walking for their pleasure: I wyll now rehearse how olde *Signor Truculento* smoutched vp him selfe in his Fustian slyppers, and put on his holy day hose, to come a wooing to Mistresse *Cornelia*. The olde horson would needes be lusty, and to cherishe vp his churlishe carkase, would get him a wanton Wife. And though I say it, he was as well made a man, and as curious in his quallities as euer an olde Horse in this towne, when he is gnabling on a thystle. This carpet knight, hauing pounced him selfe vp in his perfumes, and walking so nice on the ground, that he would scant bruse an Onion: comes to the house of *Signor Giorolamo Ruscelli*, bringing with him a veries costly Cuppe, wherein was about fiue hundred Crownes. When he was come into the presence of the Gentleman, he sayd Syr, as one right glad to heare of your health, and wilding besides to worke your welfare: I am come to see how it fareth with you, because that long tyme I haue beene desyrous. First Syr, this Cuppe I frely giue you, and these fiue hundred Crownes, I frankly bestowe on you, besides if you pleasure me in my reasonable request: you shall finde me your frend in more then I wyll speake of.

The Gentleman amazed at *Truculentos* lyberalytie, who before

before would scant bestowe on him selfe a good meales meate for erpence of money: made him this aunswere. I can not chuse Syr, but consider well of your courtesie, and lykewise estéeme of your boũtifull benevolence, vndeserued of my part to be so rytchly rewarded: considering my countenaunce to you hath béene small. And if your request be so reasonable as you séeme to affyrme, & that it lyeth in me to bring the same to effect: doubt not that I will make you any denyall, since you haue gratified me with so great a gyft. Well Syr, now *Truculento* trusseth vp his towardnesse, and bustleth vp his braynes lyke a bunch of Radishe, setting vp his wyttes to worke about his Amorous eloqnence: he thus began to tell forth his tale. It may be thought to you good Syr, eyther a naturall inclination, or a predestinate desire, that a man of my yéeres should now be bent to folly, in craving that company which a youthfull head requyreth, and séeking to match my selfe in mariage, drawing each day to my death. But as a good foresight in all thinges is to be had, and dillygent industry kéepes the Wolfe from the dore. Euen so, though I am to be thought fonde in following my wyll, I am to be excused in wishing my weale. Yet this may be alleadged to cõdemne mine assertion, and this may be thought, I do it more for lust then loue. That in making my choyse, I am not more circũspect, and in ruling my will, I am not more wise. The hoary heayres should chuse one agréeable to his age, the lusty youth one méete to his tender tyme: then if this allegation may stand in effect, I haue made my market farre amisse. On age I begin to bend my browes: and on a gallant Girle I fire my fancie, Age of me is altogether despised: and youthfull yéeres honored and exalted, Age in my minde is nothing holsome: but beauty is braue, delycate and twthsome. So Syr, if I may gaine her whom I haue thus chosen: I shall not be only pleasured, but your selfe for euer héereafter profited. Your Daughter it is whome I desire, it is euen she whom I serue, and none but she must be my solace. If you accept my sute, make aunswer accordingly: and if I shall haue your Daughter, do not deny me.

The Gentleman hauing well lystened this newe come wooers tale, and seeing at what marke he leueld his loue, he beeing one him selfe that preferred money before manly modestie, coyne before courteous ciuillitie, and rytches before any vertuous action, besides, ouercome with the costlynesse of the Cuppe, out of measure contented with the fiue hundred Crownes: Furthermore he thought, if he matched his daughter with him: she would sone send him to Church, and then should she swym in her golden bagges: was verie lothe to send away such a sweete Suter, thinking it rare to haue a rytcher: wherefore to *Truculento* he made this aunswere.

I hope Syr, you doubt not of the good will I wishe you, nor of the courtesie you shall finde hereafter, your reasonable request is altogether allowed: and your gentle gyft greatly accepted. I would my Daughters dowrie were as much as I could wishe it: I would bestowe it on man sooner then your selfe. With that he called for his Daughter *Cornelia*, who when she was come into this olde amorous Squyres presence: his heart began to heaue lyke a Bakers bun, his whole complexion so myraculously chaunged: that you could scant haue knowen him from a Croydon sanguine. Oh so his Amorous eyes beganne to looke on his new Wife, I am sure he would haue spent all the shoes in his shop to haue had one kysse for a courteous *Conge*.

Loe Daughter (quoth her Father) God hath sent you here a Husbande, one that will maintayne you in your brauerie with the best, and you shall lacke nothing, but lyue a Ladyes lyfe, now make aunswere as you shall thinke best.

Cornelia somewhat moued at this made matter, and nothing contented with her Fathers choyse, all her senses distracted with this sodayne motion: yet toke corrage to aunswere the matter in this sort. Deere Father, it is the duty of the Chylde to be obedient to her Parentes preceptes: and it is the Fathers fame to haue his Chylde vertuously nurtured, I confesse it is my part to obay your graue aduise: and it ought to be your care to see me metely matched. If then your care be no better bestowed: my dutie must be as much

neglected,

neglected, though your will be to see me carelelly cast away, if it lye in me, I am to preuent it, bothe for the credit of your worthy estate: and also for the good name of my simple selfe. Wylt you for money marrie me to a myser? Wylt you for wealth wedde me to a Wyttoll? And wylt you for rytches so lyttle regard me? Shall I for a lyttle vaine glorie? forsake vertue? Shall I for paltrie pride run headlong to hell? Shall I for mortall muck, forsake immortality? No Father, had he wytte to his wealth: he would be more wise, had he reason to his rytches, he would be of more regard, and had he manhood to his money: he would be ashamed of his extorting vsury. For what is wealth without wisdome? Ritches without reason, and money disorderly gouerned? Euen lyke the shadowe of a man portraited in a picture, that hath all the lyneaments in good order belonging to a man: yet wants the man him selfe, for as the Image lacketh lyfe to his proper proportion: so this man wants that which should most of all adorne him. Rather had I you should haue chosen a countrey Clowne, that getteth his lyuing lawfully, & lyueth by trueth and honesty: then such a one as is not acquainted with any vertuous behauiour. I must confesse he is wise enough, to make much of his money, and carefull beside how to cull in his coyne, but he that will run to the diuell for a lyttle drosse: and pinche the poore to the perdition of his owne soule: shall neuer be loued of me whyle I liue, much lesse intende I to haue him to my Husband.

When *Truculento* heard *Cornelias* pinching reply, and how she disdayned such a loathsome lyuer: he would with all his heart haue had his Cup againe, on condition he would neuer come more a woing. Yet set he a good face on the matter, because he would not be misdoubted, and fayne he would haue spoken, but his heart was so bigge he could not, the which her Father seeing, sayd.

Come Syr, we will goe walke about the Cittie a whyle, and neuer dismay your selfe at the wordes of my Daughter, for will she, nill she: I will haue her followe my minde in this matter. Away went olde *Truculento* with a heauy heart,

yet the Gentlemans lowdes, procured him to be of better cheere.

They were no soner out of the doze: but in came *Rodolfo* and *Strabino* both together, and *Strabino* in walking: had bewrayed to his frend the sum of his secretes, whereto he gayned so much his good will: that he promised he would further it as much as he might. When they came into the Garden: there they found *Cornelia* very sad and sorowfull. Why Syster (quoth *Rodolfo*) how happens it that you seme so sad? Why dow you cumber your minde with carefulnesse, your head with heauinesse and all your parts with such pensiuenesse? When I went forth in the morning: you were merrie, and are you now chaunged into such melancholie? O Brother (quoth she) after myth commeth mones, after ioy greefe, and after pleasure paine, that comes in an howre: that happens not in seuen yeere. Euen so since your departure, hath chaunced such chaunge: that all my frends will lament to heare of my fathers folly. Hath my father (quoth *Rodolfo*) framed things cõtraty to your fancie? And doth his dealings hinder your delight? I pray you vnfolde this sodayn alteration: if I may be so bolde to craue such courtesie. You are to cõmaund me in greater affayres then this quoth she: wherfore attend & I wyll tell you all. Not fully yet two howres agoe, there came to my father such a comely Camellion: that could chaũge himselfe into all hues sauing honesty, all quallities in him, sauing those ý are comly, & as expert in humanity: as he that neuer knew what it meant. Besides (but that I am not to reprehend age) for that it is honorable, nor to cõdemne his yeeres, (for ý he hath liued a tranquile tyme) he is as doting a dissard as any in Verona, & as couetous a Carle, as lyueth at this day. But if wealth may make a mã wise: he will brag with the best, or his extortion make him estæmed: he wyll be nothing behinde hand. But if vertue should vaunt & clayme for her fee: this comely Squyze were sunk in the wetting, & all his credite crackt before it were gotten. But to come to the effect of the matter, & to let passe his properties: without they were prayse worthy, and to shew the cause of his coming,

ming, and his sute to my Father. It is so, that this money myser is become a lusty louer, and bringing a gorgious gift to gratify my Father: the Amorous whorson would haue me to his wife. Now my father (as you know) hath a good minde to money, & lokes that the olde suter will sone turne vp his heeles, (so then shall I haue more money then modest maners, and greater store of substaunce, then wisedome to rule it,) he would needes make him promise, that he should wedde me to his Wife. But I gaue him such a cooling carde, & such a pinching replye: that my Father is fayne to goe and perswade him, saying at his departure: that he shall haue me whether I will or no. But sure, ere I giue my consent to fulfill his fancie, and match my selfe with such a Midas: my Father shall first cause me leaue my lyfe, which will be a greater reward: then to lyue with reproche.

Now surely Syster (quoth *Rodolfo*) I must commend your constancie, and allow the care of your credit, before such a doting drudge should spoyle your gallant youth: my selfe would tell my Father an other tale. With that *Strabino* toke out his Letter, and courteously kissing it: gaue it to his swete Saint, and in the meane whyle she was in reading it: they walked about the Garden together, and hauing read it: came vnto him saying. Syr *Strabino*, your honest intent: I can not dislyke, nor your well meaning minde: can I reproue, but wishe I were worthy so semely a suter, & of abylitie to gratifie your exceeding courtesie. I confesse your iust excuse condempneth me of vngentlenesse, & your constancie reproueth my great discourtesie, in that at your last departure: I dyd misuse my selfe with such blunt behauiour, but as the Sunne should not let on an anger conceyued: so I hope my presumption by you was pardoned, If at the first I had graunted your sute: you might haue alleadged my minde to be lyght, if at the first demaund I had made my deniall: you might haue thought me very vnconstant, but now perceyuing your ardent affection, the loyall loue and good will you beare me: I think I can not bestowe my selfe better, then on him whose fidelytie I haue found so faithfull.

Now

Now Brother tell me how lyke you my choyse: In chosing my frend, Sylker (quoth *Rodolfo*) you haue followed my fancie, in making my frend your Husband: you haue done as I would haue you. God graunt your dayes may be spent so prosperous: as I wishe this match to each party meritorious. This match is more seemely: then my Fathers forcasting, & this is more agreeable to God: then to haue you united in that order, for where perfect loue is effectually placed: there is triumphant tranquillitie, peace and plentie, Gods blessing and sufficient. But where mariage is made vpon compulsion, the one agreeing, the other disdayning: there is dayly discorde, displeasing of God, continuall care, and many infirmities followeth. Wherefore I thinke this a match so meete: that it can not be mended, a choyse so equall: as there can be no better, here is loue and loyaltie, here is fayth and fidelitie, God prospere your procéeding, I wishe it hartily.

Now Gentlemen, iudge if *Strabino* had not cause to be corragious of so gallant a conquest: of so peereelesse a paize, and so louing a Lady: Whose ioy was more iocond: Whose blisse more bountifull: And whose hap might be compared to *Strabinos* good lucke, in compassing that in a moment: which he thought would neuer haue come to effect, and in getting the good wyll of so gallant a Goddesse, so sweete a Saint, and so mercifull a Mistresse.

Wherefore now leauing the languishing of his sorrowfull sickneese, and forsaking the feare that earst followed his fancie: he saluteth his Lady with this courteous replye. I see (most mercifull Mistresse) that there is no disease so desperate: but helpe may be had, no sickneese so sore: but Phisicke can foyle it, no wound so daungerous: but a sweete salue can recure it, no greefe so great: but patience bringes prosperitie, and no doubt so dreadfull: but tyme bringeth to full effect, for here here, he that was earst drowned in doubtes: now hoysed in happynesse, he that earst remayned in vnmercifull mysterie: nowe floteth in florishing selycitie, he that earst was plundged in pittyfull perplexitie: hath chaunged his state to perfect prosperitie. If *Cæsar* heere would commit to me all

his

his conquers, *Craſus* his puiſſant poſſeſſions, or the three Goddeſſes proffer vnto me, as they dyd to Paris: None could ſo much pleaſe me, as you my ſecond ſelfe, none could more delyght me: then my Jewell ſo gentle, nor any more lyke me then my Lady ſo loyall, whoſe courteous conſtancie: high *Ioue* proſper in perpetuitie.

Cornelia ſeeing *Strabino* in the myddeſt of his myrth, and hauing deuiſed a drift to fal pat to their pleaſures, crolled his tale with a courteous kyſſe, and after began her talke in this order. The wiſe holde opinion (quoth ſhe) that a preſent peryll is good to be preuented, who worke warely at the firſt: néede not repent him after, and a bargayne well made, is halfe won. You knowe Brother, our Father requyreth rytches out of meaſure, and a match of money makes vp his mouth, nowe if *Strabino* ſhould ſolycite his ſute to him (as néedes he muſt) he may alleadge the want of his wealth, and that his abillitie is not able to maintayne me according to his minde, as no doubt he will compaſſe a hundred conceyts: becauſe he would match me with olde *Truculento*.

To deceyue him now of this deuiſe, and to winne the matter fit for our wyll: I haue bethought of a cũning coniecture, and remembred ſuch a remedy, as will fall verie fyt, bothe that my Father ſhall giue his conſent: and the olde worldly wretch ſerued in his right kinde. Firſt, Brother you ſhall goe with *Strabino* to *Truculentos* houſe, and there on your credite, take vp a great ſumme of money, as much as you ſhall thinke good, then go you into La ſtrada di San Paolo, and buy the Jewell which my Father hath long had ſuch great affection to, the which will ſo win him: that I dare warrant none but you ſhall haue me to his Wife. For the payment therof you ſhall not néede greatly to accoumpt: for that you ſhall referre vnto me, but this way I thinke you ſhall ſoneſt ſpéede, and this way I warrant you ſhall gayne no nay.

I perceyue Syſter (quoth *Rodolfo*) a Womans wyt is good at a néede, and this your deuiſe full well we allowe. Howe ſay you *Strabino*, ſhall we put this in practiſe? Or wyll you deferre it for feare of diſcredite? May ſure (quoth *Strabino*)

ſince the matter conſiſteth on no greater a clauſe, and that this inuencion may driue all out of doubt: I thinke eache day a yéere tyll we haue diſpatched it, and eache howre a month tyll we haue bound vp the bargayne.

Cornelia eſpying her Father was entred, and fearing leaſt he would miſtruſt the matter, gaue them a watche word to win them away, and to goe about their pretended purpoſe. *Rodolfo* goes in to flatter his Father, in ỹ meane whyle *Strabino* ſtealeth out, ſo that theyr prancks were nothing percey-ued: but all fell out, euen as they would wiſhe it. *Rodolfo* ſtealeth out, and followeth his frend, and in ſhort tyme they met bothe together, then they agréed how the caſe ſhould be concluded: if ſo be the money would be lent that they hoped for.

They béeing come to *Signor Truculentos* houſe, & he ſitting at his dore verie ſolytarie: *Rodolfo* in the frendlyeſt faſhion ſaluteth him, and flattering the fole, thus frameth his tale. Worthy Syr, if I ſay otherwayes then beſemes me: I hope you wyll beare with me, and if I ſpeake as affection ſerues me: I doubt not but you wyll déeme all at the beſt: ſo that neyther flattering you with any forgerie, nor vpholding my ſelfe by any vaine glorie: I ſhall committe to your courteſie my well meaning tale, and my ſimple ſute to be accoumpted of, as you ſhall lyke beſt.

Since the prouidence of the Gods hath ſo appointed, law of nature hath eke allowed, and the graue aduiſe of my Father hath ſo conſented, that you are the only man muſt matche with my Siſter: I reioyce that my hap hath prooued ſo fortunate, and that the Gods hath ſent me ſuch a lucky lot, as your worthy ſelfe ſhall become my brother, alwayes wiſhing that your tyme may proue as tranquill, as my good wyll is to worke your well fare. When olde *Truculento* heard *Rodolfos* Rhetoricke, and how gallantly he gloſed to purchaſe his pur-poſe, he thinking that all his tale had béene trueth, and vpon pure affectiõ he had ſpoken the ſame, replyed. Frend *Rodolfo*: You haue not found me ſo bountifull: as héereafter you ſhall find me brotherlike, ne haue you had any ſuch occaſiõ to com-

mend

mend me: as héereafter you shall purchase occasion to prayse me. I remayne to pleasure you, in what I can possible, and will stand your frénd in moze then I will speake of. Indéede your Father hath found me so frendly: that I thanke him, hs déemes me to deserue his Daughter, & you I sée conceyue so good opinion of me: that you thinke me sufficient to match with your Syster. Well, if all prowe so well, as I hope it will, and the matche be so graunted as on my part it is profered. It is not money, oz ought that I haue, but shall be all present to dw you a pleasure.

Strabino began to smyle in his sléeue. *Rodolfo* much a dw to kéepe his countenaunce, to sée the olde whozson how willing he was: & how craftily they caught him into so good a beléefe, wherefoze nowe he beginneth to shewe fowth his sute: not doubting to spéede befoze they departed. Well Syz (quoth *Rodolfo*) foz your proffered courtesie I remayne your debtoz, not doubting but ỹ matter will come so to passe as I haue alwayes wished it, & if it lyke you so well, as to graunt me one requeste: whyle I liue you shall binde me to the vttermost of my power. Hére is a Gentlemã, a verie déere frénd and fellow of mine, who because his lining is not yet come into his handes: is desirous to borrowe a certayne sum of money, allowing foz the gaynes thereof, what you will demaund: the sum dwth amount to fowze thousand Duckattes, and but foz one month he desireth the lending, and if by that tyme he dw not discharge the debt: he is willing to forfayte his patrimony, and beslydes the best lym of his body.

Frénd *Rodolfo* (quoth *Truculento*) the wozld is so wzetched now a dayes, & diuers of ỹ people so pinched by pouerty: that many will borrow, but slack payment is made, then if we exact the Law to the vttermost: we are accoumpted couetous carles, wozldly wzetches, and such like, which makes me so lothe to lende: foz I care not foz dealing in ỹ trade any moze. What pleasure were it to me to maime oz mãgle this Gẽtleman foz mine owne: truly I had rather if I could well spare so much, to giue it him outright, so should I sustayne no repzoch my selfe: noz he be endamaged in ỹ distresse of the law.

yet for your sake, I care not if I lende him so much: so that you wyll stande bound vnto mée, as straytlie as hée shall.

Syr (quoth *Rodolfo*) for the credit of the Gentleman, I dare wage all that I am worth, and for the payment thereof, I dare stand to the perill, deliuer you the money, & if the debt be not discharged before, or at the aboue named day: I will lose all my Landes, beside the best lym of my body. Well (quoth *Truculento*) this is the bonde, if by the first day of the month ensuing, the whole sum be not restored: eache of your Lands shall stand to the endamagement, besides the losse of bothe your right eyes, are you content to stand to this bargayne? Yea (quoth they bothe) and that right wyllingly.

With that he departed to fetche the money, then quoth *Strabino* to his frende. Dyd euer man see a more extorting villayne then this? Is not our Landes sufficient to glut vp his grædinesse? But that each of our eyes must stand to the hazard? Oh myserable myser, oh egregrious cormorant, surely the iust iudgement of God, wyll reward him for his wickednesse. Well, cease (quoth *Rodolfo*) no more wordes, *Lupus est in fabula*, little sayd is soone amended.

Then comes *Truculento*, wylling them to tell out theyr money, and then to set their handes to his Byll, which béeing done: he delyuered fortie Duckattes more to *Rodolfo*, to carie his Syster for a token from him, saying. Desire her to estéeme of the gratefulnesse of the gyft, more then the quantitie doth amount vnto, and tell her, that in lyfe or death I am hers at commaund.

Your courteous token (quoth *Rodolfo*) shall be delyuered, and your message ministred, with as much expedition as possibilitie wyll permitte, and thus thanking you a thousand tymes for your Brotherlyke benenolence. I committe you to the custody of the heauenly Creator. The lyke wishe I you (quoth he) desiring you to remember the bargaine wherin you are bound.

After

¶ After that *Rodolfo* and *Strabino* had borrowed the money of Signor Truculento, they departed to their lodgings, and in the morning goe and buy the ritch Iewell, which Strabino preſenteth to Signor Giorolamo Ruſcelli, the Father of Cornelia, and obtayneth promiſe that he ſhall haue her in marriage. Cap. 6.

RODolfo in the morning, repayreth to ỹ Thäber of his aſſured *Strabino*, where bæing entred, he found him in his ſtudy at his Bœke, awayting his company to goe about their buſineſſe. *Strabino* (quoth he) let your Bœkes a whyle be left: and frame your ſelfe to furder your fancie, let be the ſolemneſſe you vſe in your ſtudy: for you are lyke to purchaſe a double delyght, the tyde taryeth no man, and when we are aſſured of our wiſhed Iewell: then may we deferre ỹ tyme as long as we lyſt. Wherefore, my ſelfe deſyrous to haſten in our enterpryſe, and alſo to prœue the doubt of a dreame. I deſire the more to make an ende of this matter. Quoth *Strabino*, hath a dreame driuen you in any ſuch doubt, or haue you ſeen a fancie in your ſléepe, which you ſhall prœue effectuous now you are waking: if it ſhall like you to tell me the trueth, I will define thereon as well as I can.

To trifle the tyme in talke (quoth *Rodolfo*) may let our labour, and beſide, to ſhew you the effect of the ſame: would cauſe you to delude me, wherefore I will let it alone tyll we returne, and if by the way it prœue to perfection (as my deſire is of God it may not) truly I wyll tell you. They take theyr way downe by *Signor Truculentos* dore, where he ſawe the Saint ſitting which all night was in his viſion, no further could he goe he was ſo faynt, but ſtode leaning on the breſt of his frend *Strabino*, at laſt he burſt forth in theſe wordes, ſaying.

O my *Strabino*, but that you are my frend, and one whom

I dw highly make accoumpt of: I should doubt to discouer the cause of my dollor, and feare to display my so sodayne passions, yet sæing your selfe hath tasted like torment, and haue borne out the bruntes which now I abide: the bolder I may my secretes bewraye, and the surer demonstrate the cause of my care. Yet you will condempne me for my preter presumption, and may rightly controule me for my rashe reprehension: yet iudge with indifferencie, and deale with me frændly, let olde faultes be forgotten, and penaunce clayme pardon. I sée there is no stomacke so stoute: but loue will allay it, no courage so conquerous: but loue will conuince it, nor no heart so bautie: but loue can bring lowe: Euen so my selfe, who was a reiecter of loue, am now enforced to followe my fancie, and I who enuied against Women kinde: am now become a thrall to one my selfe.

With that for feare of béeing suspected in the open stréete: they went theyr wayes about theyr other affayres, and as they were walking, quoth *Strabino*. I sée déere frende, that the most learned Clarkes, are not the wisest, the most valiaunt, not the surest, nor the greatest boasters, the best performers, I perceyue you would haue béene in your deskant, before you knewe what pertayned to pricke Song. What say you nowe to *Plautus* wordes? What say you to all the matters wherewith you charged me? Well, I will not replye so rashlie as you dyd: nor I will not giue you such colde comfort, as you vsed to me, but I wyll dw the best to make vp the matter, and my head to a halfepeny, I wyll bring it to effect.

I knowe it is *Truculentos* Daughter whome you desire, and she it is must cease your sorrowes: let vs first ende the matter we haue in hande, and then you shall sée how I wyll compasse this géere. *Rodolfo* well satisfied with *Strabinos* promise: went and bought the Jewell which his Father so much desired, and there withall a fayre white Jennet of Spayne, and comming home: found his Father sitting at the dore, he entred, leauing *Strabino* to talke with him, who after he had saluted him in sœmely sort: beganne his matters in

this

this order as followeth.

To rip vp the chéefe occasions (worthy Sir) that procureth me in what I can to pleasure you: would be ouer tedious to me in the telling, and somewhat troublesome to you in the hearing, wherefore letting them passe as remembred in minde, and recounting such matters as occasion doth byd me: I first and formost present you with this rytch & sumptuous Jewell, wishing it so much worth, as I could wyllingly bestowe.

When *Signor Ruscelli* sawe the Jewell, which so long he desired, and that his sonnes frænd and Companion was the bestower of the same: he was ouercome with such excæding ioy: that it is vnpossible for me to expresse. But when he had well viewed all about, & sæne the sumptuousnesse bestowed thereon: he aunswered *Strabino* to his great contentment.

If I should shew you (quoth he) how much this gyft pleaseth me, and besides, make manifest the good wyll I beare you: you would suppose I dyd but flatter you, and dæme my wordes of no true intent. Wherefore to driue you out of all such doubtes, and to make apparaunce of that I haue spoken: demaund of me what you shall dæme expedient, and I vow to the vttermost to graunt your request.

With that *Cornelia* came to the dore, and sæing the Jewel in her Fathers hande: commended greatly the lyberalitie of her Brothers frænde, and informing her Father to make him large amendes.

Syr (quoth *Strabino*) the Jewell giuen, byds me (vnder verdite of your lycence) craue an other Jewell, and this Jennet besides I giue you, wishing but to spæde of that Jewell. What Jewell soeuer it be (quoth he) I haue, or any other thing, that may sæme to suffice you: on my credite and fidelitie, you can but aske and haue. *Strabino* stepped vp and toke *Cornelia* by the hand, saying: then giue me this Jewell in recompence of my Jewell: so shall I be contented, and you nothing inured.

Syr *Strabino* (quoth *Signor Ruscelli*) the demaund you haue made is doubtfull, and the choyse you haue chosen, nothing

correspon-

correspondent to mine intent, her mariage is already made, and she is giuen to one whose wealth is so worthy, & whose store so surpassing: that whyle she liueth, she shall nede to lacke nothing. You are a young Gentleman, youthfull and lyberall, and will spend more in a day: then he in a yere, he is warie and wise, you youthfull and prodigall, therefore the matche is otherwise determined, any thing else remayneth at your request. Syr (quoth *Strabino*) you haue left a poynt open, and I haue a man to enter, respect your play wisely, least you lose the game outright. A promise may alwayes be claymed for a due debt, and such a man as you should neuer shrinke at his word, I may clayme this Iewell by a sufficient tytle: for that in your promise you made no exception. Yea but *Strabino* (quoth he) I meant you should haue desired some other desert. But I meant (quoth *Strabino*) to craue none other, so that you standing to the bargaine, and I libertie to take what best lykes me: this Iewell is mine, and your worde a sufficient warrant.

Besides, where you doubt my liuing is not sufficient to welcome such a Wife: I trust that the patrimony my Parentes doth allowe me, is more then the dowrie you wyll make to her mariage. Againe, if my lyberalitie, of you be dyslyked, and the niggardly sparing of a worldly wretch so much commended: I perceyue you preferre rytches before a noble minde, and accoumpt more of vanitie, then you do of vertue. *Mazeus* when he receyued his Pretorship of *Alexander*: in commendation of his munificence, vsed these wordes. My Prince *Darius* was euer but one man: but thou by thy lyberalitie, makest many *Alexanders*. *Scipio Africanus* neuer rode abroade, but he would vse such lyberalitie ere he returned: that of his greatest foes, he would make his dearest frends. *Isocrates* wysheth *Nicocles* to be familliar with this excellent vertue, wylling him in his apparell to be gallant and glorious: and let his lyberalitie set forth his magnificence. Then neuer dispraise lyberalitie, which is the chefe ornament of a noble minde: but hate that worldly pleasure, enemie to all vertuous actions. I content my selfe

to

to ſtand to her gentle iudgement, if ſhe do not regard me: I am content you ſhall refuſe me, and if ſhe lyke me not: I will let her alone.

What bargayne is betwéene you twayne (quoth *Signor Ruſcelli*) I knowe not, nor how you haue deuiſed the matter in hope to deceyue me, yet haue I ſéene no ſuch familliarity, whereof I ſhould accoumpt: nor any ſuch likelyhood, that ſhe will chuſe you to her Huſband. I am content to abyde her agréement, wherefore ſpeake Daughter as your minde ſhall beſt ſerue you.

Then ſince déere Father (quoth *Cornelia*) it hath lyked you to graunt me my minde, in making my choyſe, and that you will not be offended at my bolde behauiour: Syr *Strabino*, you are the man whome I moſt accoumpt of, and no other will I haue during lyfe.

When *Signor Ruſcelli* perceyued it was come to that paſſe, and that his promiſe bound him to ſtand to her verdict: he ſayd. Take héere then *Strabino*, the Jewell of my ioy, to quite your Jewell ſo lyberallie beſtowed, and God graunt you ſuch proſperitie whyle you liue together: as I wiſhe to mine owne ſoule, I ſpeake vnfaynedly. The Nuptialles ſhall be celebrated when you thinke beſt, in the meane while I will take you as my Sonne, and you bothe as Man and Wife.

After much talke paſſed betwéene them: out commeth the mournfull *Rodolfo*, raviſhed with ſuch inward deſyre, and toſſed in ſuch frantick fittes: as his pittious plight bewrayed the ſtate of his ſickneſſe. *Strabino* taking leaue of his new found Father, and of his ſwéet Lady and wife *Cornelia*: went with him. And as they were going (quoth *Rodolfo*.) O my déere *Strabino*, néedes muſt I goe, to knowe eyther of or on, her Father ſhall knowe the good will I beare her, and ſhe ſhall perceyue I wiſhe her to my Wife. If I maye ſpéede, I haue my deſire, if not, the greater wyll be my diſtreſſe.

Ah Syr (quoth *Strabino*) how lyke you loue? Who ſhall controule you for following your fancie? A man knowes

what his begin ning is: but he knoweth not his ending. Brag is a good Dogge, whyle he will holde out: but at last he may chaunce to mæte with his matche. In such like conference they came to the house of *Signor Truculento*, and who should open the doore but *Brisana* his Daughter, the Mistresse of *Rodolfo*, whome he saluted in very frændly sort. But euen so willing as he was to haue her to his Wife: she was as desirous to haue him to her Husbande. Heere was hote loue on bothe sides, and each of them so farre in: that it was vnpossible for eyther to gette out. *Rodolfo*, he in secrete telles *Truculento* such a flattering tale in his eare, howe his Sister had calmed her courage, and was content to stand to her Fathers appointment: that the day after the debt was discharged the mariage should be made, so he for ioy of these newcome tydinges: ioyneth them bothe hand in hand, to marie when they will, & God giue them much ioy. Heere were mariages sone made, and Wiues sone wonne, I beleeue if I should sue for lyke succour: I should perforce take longer space to spæde.

Nowe is *Rodolfo* returned reioysing, and *Strabino* right glad of his good successe, *Truculento* presently hyes him to horsebacke, to goe wyll all his frændes, to mæte at his mariage.

When *Signor Ruscelli* knew how his sonne had spedde, and by so fine a drift had deceyued *Truculento*: the next morning marieth his sonne, and *Truculentos* Daughter together, and *Cornelia* and *Strabino* in the selfe same sort. What ioy was heere on eyther side: iudge you that are maried folkes and meddle in such matters, yet though I be vnskilfull to define on such clauses: I must nædes suppose, that since each of thē gayned, the thing which they most desired: their ioy was not lyttle, nor their pleasure lightly to be accounpted of.

Strabino he with his swæte *Cornelia* passeth the tyme pleasantly, & *Rodolfo* with his braue *Brisana* lyueth at hearts ease & tranquilitie, so that they thinke there is no other felycitie.

But now Gentlemen (as the auntient Prouerbe is) after pleasure comes payne, and after mirth comes myserie, and

after

after a fayre and sunny day, ariseth bluskring windes & sharp showers: Euen so to this passed pageant of pleasure, is annexed a stratageme of sorrowes.

Truculento is returned from bydding his Guestes, and hath heard of the hap which chaunced in his absence, he comes as one bereft of his wyttes, or as a man feared out of his fiue sences, and vttereth this tale to *Signor Girolamo Ruscelli*. Syr, blame not my boldnesse, for that I am constrayned, nor reprehend my rashnesse, since I am so misused, I thought more credite had consisted in your auncient heart, and that you would not haue dissembled with any such double dealing. Dyd not you perfectly promise I should matche with your Daughter, and that no one should gayne her but only I: Did not I giue your Sonne my Daughter on the selfe same condition: And haue you in my absence maryed her to an other: Not cõtented with matching my Daughter with your Son, I beeing not present: but to goe and play such a Parasites part. Well, well, I doubt not but to deale so sharply with some: that they shall wishe they neuer had maried my promised wife.

Fewe wordes: sweete Syr, (quoth *Signor Ruscelli*) threatned folkes liue long, and angrie men are subiect to many sorrowes, I gaue you no other consent, then on my Daughters agreement, and when I mentioned the matter: I styll found her contrarie. Wherfore you must pacifie your selfe, there is no other remedy, and learne to make a vertue of necessity, for sure your lucke was still turned to losse. And whereas my Sonne hath matched with your Daughter; I deeme you are not greatly to finde any fault, but rather may be glad she hath sped so well, for ỹ day hath beene he might haue had her betters. Wherfore if you seeme to chafe your selfe vpon so lyght occasion, and that you will not be cõtented, we offering you such courtesy: meddle in no more matters then you may, nor heape any more harmes on your head, then you are wylling to beare. If you set not a poynt by vs: we care not a pyn for you, if we may haue your good will so it is; if not, keepe your winde to cole your Pottage.

This aunſwere made *Truculento* moꝛe mad then he meant to be, and he flung foꝛth of dooꝛes in ſuch a fume: as though all the Towne would not haue helde him.

On the moꝛrow, he cauſed *Strabino* and *Rodolfo* to be ſummoned to appéere befoꝛe the Iudge, foꝛ the payment of the money, which when *Cornelia* and *Briſana* perceyued: they willed their Huſbandes in nothing to doubt, foꝛ that by their induſtrie they ſhould be diſcharged. *Cornelia* apparelleth her ſelfe all in blacke like a Scholler, and *Briſana* attyꝛeth her ſelfe in the ſame ſoꝛte. After dinner they appéered befoꝛe the Iudge, where *Truculento* appealed againſt them in this oꝛder.

Signor Truculento ſummoneth *Strabino* and Rodolfo before the Iudge, for the debt which was due to him, where Cornelia and Briſana, by their excellent inuencions redeemeth their Huſbandes, and Truculento at laſt ſeeing no remedy: falleth to agreement. Cap. 7.

MOſt magnificent Iudge, tyme was (quoth *Truculento*) when firme affection, and pure zeale of frændſhippe, mooued me to minde the deſtitute eſtate of theſe two Gentlemen, whē as either they had not money to their contentment: oꝛ wanted ſuch neceſſaries, as then was to them nœdefull. At which tyme (as the Lambe endaungered by the rauenous Wolfe, flyeth foꝛ ſauegard to his folde, oꝛ as the Ship abiding the hazard of Foꝛtune, and fearing the emminent daunger, poſteth to ſome Poꝛte, oꝛ haſteth to ſome Hauen in hope of ſuccour): Euen ſo theſe twayne repayꝛed to me, who bæing ſufficiently ſtoꝛed of that which they wanted, and beſides, willing to pleaſure them, to their greater pꝛofite: committed to their cuſtody, a certayne ſumme of money, which amounteth vnto foꝛꝛe thouſand Crownes.

Now

Nowe theyr necessite indifferently satisfied, and they bæing bound to delyuer the summe at a certayne daye: they haue broken theyr promise, which is open periurie, and falsyfied theyr faythes, in not restoring the money. Wherefore, that all Gentlemen may be warned by such wylfull offenders, and that God may be glorified in putting them to punishment: I haue thus determined how the debt shall be discharged. The rendring of the money I dw not accoumpt of, ne wyll I be pleased with twise as much restored: the breach of the Lawe I meane to exact, and to vse rygor, where it is so required.

The forfayture of theyr Landes, is the one part of the penaltie, the losse of theyr right eyes the whole ingenerall, now remembring the wofull estate of theyr solitarie wiues, how in depriuing theyr substaunce, they might be pinched by penurie: I let theyr Landes remayne vnto them in full possession, whereon hæreafter they may liue more honestly. I clayme theyr right eyes for falsifying theyr faith: to mowe others regard howe they make lyke rechlesse promises. So shall Justice be ministred without partialytie, they rightly serued for infringing theyr fidelity: and my selfe not thought to deale with crueltie.

Thus haue you heard the cause of my comming: now giue iudgement as your wisedome shall thinke most expedient. My frænds (quoth the Judge) hære is no place to deale with partialitie, hære is no rome where falsehood should be frequented, nor time in this place to deferre in trifling affayres: but hære is simply Justice to be aduaunced, wrong righly reuenged, and mercie mildly maintayned. Wherfore, ere I beginne to deale in this diuersitie, or that I sæme to contend about this controuersie: I exhort you each one to exempt double dealing, to flye forged fraude, & to minister nothing malitiously, but on each cause to way the matter aduisedly. Consider you come to deale in matters of conscience, matters of your owne mayntenaunce, and such thinges whereon your credite consisteth, now you are not for frændshippe to further falsehood, ne yet for malice to touch an vn-

trueth, but euen to deale so directly, to frame your matters so faithfully, and to vse your selues heere so vprightly: that not so much as a motion be made of any misorder. But euery one to aunswere as occasion is offered, so helpe you God and the contentes of this booke, wherat they all kissed the booke. And then the Iudge called *Strabino*, to shewe in what sort, and after what order the money was borrowed, and what promise there was betweene them.

Most mightie Iudge (quoth *Strabino*) trueth neuer defameth his Maister, right repelleth all proffered wrong, and vpright dealing disdayneth all forged fraude, wherefore, neyther fearing the force of his reuenging rigor, nor yet dismaying at ought that is done: I will tell my tale, reporting nothing but trueth, and clayming no other courtesie then my desertes shall deserue.

Trueth is, my Father fayling to send me such money, as serued to the mayntenaunce of my studious exercise, and besides, wanting wherewith to deale in waighty affayres: my frend & I came vnto this Caterpyller, (so rightly may I call him, neyther defacing his lycentious lyuing, condempning his practised science, and cunning handy craft, nor yet inuaying against any of his honest behauiour: but commending his cut throate cõditions, in pinching the poore, to fyl vp his own poutch.) Beeing come to this aforesayd Woolfe of the world, (who eateth so many to the bare bones, out of Lands and lyuing, to glut his greedy desire) we desired a certayne summe of money, which is no lesse then him selfe hath confessed, for a monthes space, and then to restore the same to the vnrightfull owner, who binding vs straytly in the losse of our Landes, and of each our right eyes: lent vs this aforesayd sum. Now in deede, we not minding the so short restoring of his due debt, for that necessary occasions was partly our hinderaunce: haue indamaged our selues in two dayes more, then the limmited time did amount vnto, for which time we will allow him to the vttermost he can aske, & his money to haue when him pleaseth. Now if your wisdome doth not thinke we deale with him honestly and well: we will stand to what

effect

effect it ſhall like you to bring it.

My frend (quoth the Judge) your reply is reaſonable, you confeſſe your ſelfe indebted in that which he hath demaũded, and yeeld that you haue broken the band, wylling to make an amends, inſomuch that you will ſatiſfie the vttermoſt, which he may ſeeme to ſue for: I can not chuſe but accoumpt your wordes of good credite, in that your dealing doth demõſtrate no other. Now *Truculento*, you ſee the Gentleman graũteth him ſelfe guilty, ſince his earneſt affayres dyd hinder the repayment of your debt to you due, now he hath the whole ready to reſtore, and beſide, ouer & aboue this ſum: will content you to the vttermoſt it ſhall pleaſe you to requeſt. In my opinion you can reaſonably require no more, if you do: you ſhall but ſeeme to ſhame your ſelfe.

Syr (quoth *Truculento*) he that before my face will vſe ſuch terrible tauntes, behinde my backe, would gladly brew my bane, he that in my preſence will ſo ſpightfully remoue me: in my abſence would hang me if it were in his poſſibilitie. Doth he demerit fauour: that ſo frowneth on his frend? Can he clayme any courteſie: that abuſeth him ſelfe ſo diſorderly? Or can he once pleade for pittie: that ſtandeth in ſo great a preſumption? Or you my Lord, deſire me deale gently: with one who reſpecteth not gentillitie? No, the money is none of mine, ne will I haue it, his Landes I reſpect not, ne care I for them, and now his ſubmiſſion I way not, ne will I accept of it. You my Lord ſhall rather reape reproche by pleading on his part: then gayne any credite in maintayning ſo careleſſe a creature. I driue my whole action to this iſſue, I plead my priuiledge vnto this poynt, & to this clauſe I am ſeuerely bent: I will haue the due which breach of promiſe doth deſerue, I will exempt all courteſie: and accoumpt of cruelty, I wyll be pleaſed with no ritch reward whatſoeuer, no pitty ſhall preuayle, rigor ſhall rule, and on them bothe I will haue Lawe to the vttermoſt.

Why *Truculento* (quoth the Judge) reſpect you cruelty: more then Chriſtian ciuillitie, regard you rigor more then reaſon. Should the God aboue all Gods, the Judge aboue all

Judges

Iudges, administer desert, which your sinnes hath deserued? If his fatherly affection, if his mercifull myldnesse, if his righteous regard, dyd not consider the frayltie of your flesche, your promptnes vnto peryll, and your aptnes vnto euyll: how mightie were the myserie, which should iustly fall vpon you? Howe sharpe the sentence that should be pronounced against you, and howe rigorous the reuenge, which should rightly reward you? Is this the lowe you beare to your brother? Is this the care you haue of a Christian? The Turke, whose tyranny is not to be talked of: could but exact to the vttermost of his crueltie. And you a braunche of that blessed body, which bare the burden of our manifolde sinnes: howe can you seeme to deale so sharply with your selfe? seeing you should vse to all men: as you would be dealt with all. Yet to let you haue the lybertie of your demaund in Lawe, and you to stand to the Iustice which heere I shall pronounce, let first your right eye be put forth in their presence: and then shall they bothe abide lyke punishment.

For since neyther the restoring of your debt wyll suffice you, nor yet the lyberall amendes they are content to make you: I deeme it expedient you should be pertaker of their paynes, so shall you knowe if you demaund a reasonable request. Howe say you, will you stand to the verdict pronounced: or take the rewarde which they haue promised.

My Lord (quoth *Truculento*) neyther do I deserue to abide any such dome, nor they worthy to be fauoured with any such frendshippe, I may lawfully alleadge that you permit partiality: & that you deuide not each cause indifferently, for to what ende should you seeme to satisfie me with their words: when your selfe perceyues how they are found faultie? And what vrgeth you to vse such gentle perswasions: when you see your selfe they deserue no such dealing? If I had wylfully offended in any such cause, and wyttingly broken in such sort my bonde: I would be contented you should deliuer me my deserts, so that you dyd minister nothing but Iustice. And wherefore should you seeme to demaund the losse of my

eye

eye who haue not offended: for sauegarde of their eyes that haue so trecherously trespassed: I am sure I go not beyõd the breache of my bande, nor I desire no more then they haue deserued. Wherefore obiect no more matters, whereby to delude me, nor impute no occasions to hinder my pretence, I craue Iustice to be vprightly vsed, and I craue no more, wherefore I will haue it.

Indéede my frends (quoth ỹ Iudge) who séeketh the extremitie, & vrgeth so much as his wilfull minde doth cõmaũd him: his commission is very large, & his request not to be refused. Wherfore, since neither pittie can preuaile, nor frendly counsayle perswade: you must render the raunsome that he doth require, for we cannot debarre him in these his dealings, nor we can not chuse but giue our cõsentes. Therfore if you haue any that will pleade your case in Law: let them speake & they shall be heard, to further your safety as much as we may.

My Lord (quoth *Rodolfo*) they're courtesie is ouermuch that will knéele to a Thystle, and they're beneuolence bountifull that will bowe to a Bramble: Euen so we are farre foolishe to craue courtesie of such a cut throate, and more wytlesse then wyse to meddle with such a worldly wretch. If there be no remedy: we knowe the vttermost of our paynes, yet we craue that these our Attorneyes, may haue such lybertie as Lawe will permit.

With that *Truculento* fared like a fiend, and cursted and banned like a Diuell of hell, (quoth he) my Lord, you deale with me discourteously: when the Lawe is come to the passe to let them haue they're Attorneyes.

Syr (quoth the Iudge) you haue vsed all this whyle your Attorneyes aduise, and they haue aunswered simply of themselues, now since you the Plaintife haue had this prerogatiue: it is reason the Defendaunts should demaund their due. It may be that their Attorneyes may put you to such a plundge: that you shall haue small occasion to bragge of your bargayne: wherefore let them speake.

Then *Brisana* (*Truculentos* Daughter) began in this order to pleade for her auayle. Admit my Lord (quoth she) that I

come to such a person as this partie, to borrow ỹ lyke sum of money, binding me in ỹ selfe same band, to restore the money to the same party of whome I had it. Well, the time expyred, I come to deliuer the due to the owner, he being not at home, nor in the Citty, but ridden forth, and vncertaine of his comming: I returne home to my house, and he him selfe comes out of the Countrey as yesterday. Now he vpon some seuerall spight or malicious intent: sueth me in the Lawe, not demaunding his due, nor I knowing of his arriuall. Am I to be condempned for breaking the Lawe: when the partie him selfe hath deferred the day?

How lyke you this gære *Truculento*? you haue now another Pigeon to pull, and here is one wiser then you were beware. Can you condempne this partie, not demaunding your due, nor being at home when it might haue bene discharged? And making the bande to be restored to your selfe?

My Lord (quoth *Truculento*) though I was not at home: my house was not emptie, and though I was away, if it had bene restored: it stode in as good effect as if it had bens payd to me. Wherefore it is but follie to frame such an allegation: for my Receyuer in my absence doth represent my selfe.

Well (quoth *Brisana*) admit your seruaunt in your absence, standeth in as full effect as your selfe, and admit the debt had bene discharged to him, if wylfulnesse had allured your seruaunt to wandering, and that he had departed with the debt he receyued: you returne and finde it styll in your booke, neither marked nor crossed, as if payment had not bene made, you wyll let your seruaunt slyp with his offence: but you wyll demaund the debt agayne of me.

Tush (quoth *Truculento*) this is but a tryfle, and your wordes are now to be esteemed as winde, you should haue restored the summe to my seruaunt: and I would not haue troubled you in any such sort, for there is no man that vseth such follie: but he will see the booke crossed before he depart. Therefore you do but trouble tyme with mentioning such matters: for your redemption is neuer the nere.

Well

Well then Syr (quoth she) you will thus much allow, that at the deliuery: the bande should be restored, and if I had delyuered the money to your seruaunt: I should haue respected my bande tyll yesterday, for your seruaunt had it not to delyuer: and I would not pay it before I had my bande. Ah *Signor Truculento* (quoth the Iudge) he toucheth you to ỹ quick now, how can you reply to this his demaund? In dede I confesse (quoth he) my Cubborde kept the bande tyll I returned, but yet noting the receyt in the booke, would haue bene sufficient tyll my comming home.

With that *Cornelia* stepped vp, saying. Since (*Signor Truculento*) you will neyther allowe the reasonable aunsweres he hath made, nor be content to abide my Lord the Iudges verdict: receyue the raunsome you so much require, and take bothe their eyes, so shall the matter be ended. But thus much (vnder verdict of my Lord his lycence) I giue you in charge, and also especially notifie, that no man but your selfe shall execute the dede, ne shall you craue any counsayle of any the standers by. If in pulling forth their eyes, you diminishe the least quantitie of blood out of their heads, ouer and besides their only eyes, or spyll one drop in taking them out: before you styrre your foote, you shall stand to the losse of bothe your owne eyes. For that the bande maketh mention of nothing but their eyes, and so if you take more then you should, and lesse then you ought: you shall abide the punishment here in place pronounced. Nowe take when you will, but beware of the bargayne.

Truly (quoth the Iudge) this matter hath bene excellently handled, it is no reason if you haue your bargayne: that you should hinder them with the losse of one droppe of blood, wherefore I pronounce no other Iudgement, shall at this tyme be ministred.

Now was *Truculento* more mad that he could not haue his hearts desire, for that he knewe he must needes spyll some blood, it could not be other wyse chosen, wherefore he desired he might haue his money, and so let all other matters alone.

Nay (quoth ỹ Judge) since you would not accept of it when it was offered, nor would be contented with so large a promise: the money shall serue to make them amendes, for the great wrong which you would haue offered. Thus in my opinion is Iudgement equally vsed, and neyther partie I hope will be miscontented.

Truculento seeing there was no remedy, and that all the people praysed the Iudgement so worthily: accepted *Rodolfo* for his lawfull sonne, and put him in possession of all his lyuinges after his decease. Thus were they on all partes verie well pleased, and euerie one accounpted him selfe well contented.

If now this homely History may seeme to suffice you: in recompence of my costes, I craue nothing but your courtesie. You shall haue the rest as possibilitie can permyt me, and I remayne your frend to pleasure you in ought to my power.

Take this in meane tyme, thoughtes short to be sweete,
and thus I byd *Euphues* hartily welcome into
England.

Honos alit Artes.

FINIS. *A. Munday.*

Faultes escaped in the printing.

1. In the. 25. Page, in *Zelautos* speeche, for vnderding, reade vnderstanding.
2. In the. 32. Page, in *Zelautos* speeche, for *Timon*, reade *Timantes*.